

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER 1 - SPRING 2017**

February 2017

<b>Term Dates</b>	
<b>SCHOOL TERMS &amp; HOLIDAY DATES</b>	<b><u>2016/2017</u></b>
<b>Autumn Term</b>	Mon 5 September 2016 - Fri 21 October 2016
<b>Half Term</b>	Mon 24 October - Fri 28 October 2016
	Mon 31 October - Fri 16 December 2016
<b>Spring Term</b>	Tue 3 January 2017 - Fri 17 February 2017
<b>Half Term</b>	Mon 20 February - Fri 24 February 2017
	Mon 27 February - Fri 7 April 2017
<b>Summer Term</b>	Mon 24 April 2017 - Fri 26 May 2017 <i>May Day Bank Holiday Mon 1 May 2017</i>
<b>Half Term</b>	Mon 29 May 2017 - Fri 2 June 2017
	Mon 5 June 2017 - Tue 25 July 2017
	<b><u>Remaining Inset Days 2016/2017:</u></b> <b>Friday 17 February 2017</b> <b>Monday 5 June 2017</b>

<b>Dates for Diary</b>
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Thur 16 February pm	Year 6 Visit to Ballet - "Cinderella" Birmingham Hippodrome
Wed 1 March	Secondary 2017 offers out
Thur 2 March	World Book Day
Thur 2 March	Year 6 Bollywood Dance Workshop
Tue 7 March	Y1 Explorer Day & Animal Lady Visit
Wed 8 March	YR & Y1 Dental Survey
Thur 9 March	Year 5 Rainforest Roadshow
Mon 13 March	Flying the Flag for The Commonwealth Day
Thur 16 March	Year 6 to visit to the National Memorial Arboretum
Thur 23 March 4.00-5.30pm	Basketball League at St Peter's School
Fri 24 March	Year 5 Assembly
Fri 24 March	Nursery - Mother's Day Celebration
Fri 24 March	Red Nose Day
Mon 27- Fri 31 March	Health Week
Mon 27 March	Life Bus Day 1
Tue 28 March	Life Bus Day 2
Tue 28 March	Parent Consultations
Wed 29 March	Parent Consultations
Wed 5 April	Year 1 Assembly
Wed 5 April	Nursery Phonics Workshop
Fri 7 April	Easter Service at Church
Sat 15 April	Reception 2017 offers out
Tue 2 May	Year 4 Cricket Coaching starts
Fri 5 May	Year 4 Assembly
Mon 8 May - Fri 12 May	Y6 Assessment Week

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Tue 16 May	Year 1 to visit Toy Museum at Sudbury Hall
Fri 19 May	Year 3 Assembly
Mon 22 May	<b>Date change*</b> Year 4 to "Strings Explosion" Warwick Arts Centre
Thur 25 May	Tempest Photography - Class Photos
Wed 7 June	Y6 Tag Rugby Tournament
Tue 13 June am	Reception: National Measurement Programme
Wed 14 June	Nursery visit to Umberslade Farm
Fri 16 June	Year 2 Assembly
Mon 19 - Fri 23 June	Year 6 Condoover Hall residential visit
Fri 30 June	Reception Assembly
3/4 July (TBC)	Year 6 Leavers' Service Birmingham
Wed 5 July am	Year 1 visit to Pizza Express, Resorts World, NEC
Thur 6 July	Year Y5 Cricket Festival
Mon 10- Fri 14 July pm session	Year 5 Bikeability
Fri 21 July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly
Tue 25 July	Year 6 Leavers' Church Service

**New School Uniform**

Thank you for your positive feedback regarding the introduction of shirts and ties for our Key Stage 2 children from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017. The children are already very excited and looking forward to the change. Please be advised that all uniform should now be purchased from:

**PALMERS, 1640 HIGH STREET, KNOWLE. B93 0NA TELEPHONE: 01564 776590**

**School Visits and Events**



As part of our Online Safety work, children from Reception through to Year 6 participated in assemblies which focused on the theme of

**"Be the change - Unite for a better internet".**

This was followed up in class with further work exploring how children could contribute to this. More details can be found on our website:

<http://www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk/online-safety.html>

**Nursery - Playhouse Theatre**

On 8<sup>th</sup> February Nursery enjoyed a fabulous theatrical experience when The Playhouse Theatre visited school with their circus based "Roll up, Roll up" Show. The children had a lot of opportunities to get actively involved as they considered how we need to persevere to get really proficient whether you are learning to write your name or walk the tightrope!!

**Year 2- KS1 Athletics Competition**

A team of 7 gymnasts from Year 2 competed in a Gymnastics Competition at Lode Heath Secondary School, performing a routine combining 8 different movements and then a balance beam showcase. We are delighted to announce that they came 9<sup>th</sup> out of 17 schools and we are incredibly proud of them all - well done!

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**Year 4 Ashmolean Museum**

As part of our History and English topics this term, we have been learning about ancient Islamic civilisations. We have studied stories set in this era, looked at the foundations of the early Islamic societies and have researched the founding of the city of Baghdad. In order to explore the art and architecture of this period, we visited the Ashmolean Museum to look at their ancient Islamic art collection. What a wonderful time we had, looking in the galleries and imagining the splendour of Baghdad in 900AD! The children, as ever, were a credit to our school and we were so proud of them.

**Year 5 Athletics Roadshow**

Year 5 had a wonderful time at the Sportshall Primary Athletics Competition, held on 31/2/17 at Solihull Sixth Form College. It was a fabulous opportunity to compete in track and field events against children from other schools and there was some stiff opposition! The sportsmanship and courage shown by our children was outstanding and the accompanying staff were extremely proud of every child who took part.

**Year 5 & 6 Football Coaching:**

This term, Years 5 & 6 have benefited from 6 weeks of football coaching organised by Paul Jayes from West Bromwich Albion Football Club. The children have developed their skills, as well as playing in a variety of team and mini games led by our coach, Dan. The children all enjoyed these sessions and their football skills certainly blossomed over the 6 weeks!

**Year 6: Birmingham Royal Ballet "Cinderella"**

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February, Year 6 accompanied the Hampton Senior Lunch Club to a production of the ballet Cinderella, at the Birmingham Hippodrome. It was a magical performance, thoroughly enjoyed by us all. Our thanks go to the Fentham Trust for funding this wonderful cultural opportunity for the children.

**Debating Event**

On Weds 18<sup>th</sup> January, we held a collaborative enrichment event at George Fentham involving 4 of our Year 6 pupils and 20 keen representatives from local schools. An exciting morning ensued with a lively debate. The motion for the session was "The Elgin Marbles should be returned to Greece". After careful research and preparation, pupils presented their arguments with great confidence and clarity. This was an excellent opportunity for our talented debaters to test themselves against pupils from other schools.

**French Event**

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February, three of our Year 4 pupils took part in a French enrichment morning at Balsall Common Primary School. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed developing their French language skills with a focus on food and menus.

**Recorder Club**

This half term, some children in Year 2 have enjoyed learning the descant recorder with Mrs Kermode. They have shown great enthusiasm and have worked hard (at school and at home), using their BLP skills to listen, notice, improve and collaborate. They should all be truly proud of their achievements so far and Mrs Kermode looks forward to working with them again in the summer term. Congratulations and well done on a great start to learning the instrument!

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**Book Club**

We have had two Book Club meetings this half term for Years 4, 5 and 6 Book Club members. Between us, we are reading a huge variety of books and it has been brilliant to see children so totally absorbed in their reading. This current Book Club will run every Wednesday until 29<sup>th</sup> March.

**Class Assemblies**

Please see below for class assembly dates. On very rare occasions we may need to change dates but always do our best to give maximum notice and keep parents well informed.

Year	Date
<b>Nursery</b>	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2017 - Mother's Day Celebration
<b>Reception</b>	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
<b>1</b>	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2017
<b>2</b>	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
<b>3</b>	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
<b>4</b>	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
<b>5</b>	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
<b>6</b>	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2017

**MONEY RAISED FROM OUR CHRISTMAS FAIR - Free Readers Library**

In consultation with class teachers and using the money raised from the Christmas Fair on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016 we will be adding a range of further books to our KS2 Free Readers Library. Reading is a hugely important skill which we value enormously at George Fentham. The academic research shows that children who read regularly achieve greater academic success across the curriculum. We will be adding new books to the class libraries of all KS2 classes. We hope that this will provide the children with an engaging and vibrant collection of books and will encourage children to really enjoy their reading.

**Christmas Hat Competition**

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016 children made Christmas hats to wear during Christmas lunch. Small prizes were awarded to two children in each class for their fantastic efforts.

Well done to everyone who took part!

Year	Boy	Girl
<b>Nursery</b>	Myles	Sophie
<b>Reception</b>	Edward	Ruby
<b>1</b>	Ethan	Frankie
<b>2</b>	Ben	Olivia
<b>3</b>	Thomas	Sophie
<b>4</b>	Jake	Kajsa
<b>5</b>	Ethan	Annabelle
<b>6</b>	Jacob	Amelia

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**PTA**

This term will see the introduction of brand new staging for the children to use in a range of performance opportunities. This has been funded by the PTA and will benefit all children throughout the school. As always we would like to thank everyone who has helped make this purchase possible.

The PTA is keen to increase numbers and very much look forward to welcoming new members. Please contact Nicola Pickering [NicolaPickering@googlemail.com](mailto:NicolaPickering@googlemail.com) (07899082598) or John Read [john@jre.org.uk](mailto:john@jre.org.uk) (07814007281).

**Charities - Spring 2017**

**The Great Daffodil Appeal 2017**

After half-term we will be selling daffodils on behalf of Marie Curie. This charity is close to our hearts at George Fentham School, Marie Curie provide nurses who give care & support for people with a terminal illness. The daffodils are sold with a pin and a plastic securer, they will be on sale at the School Office. A minimum donation of 50p is requested. Thank you for your support.

**Red Nose Day**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March is Red Nose Day and we will again be selling a variety of "Meet the new Superstar Red Noses" in support of Comic Relief. The noses will be on sale during March, we would like to suggest a donation of £1 per nose.

**School Meals - Outstanding Debt**

As previously advised, the flexibility of the new system allows parents to choose which days they wish their child to have a school meal. However, it is important to keep your account in credit; reminders are generated daily for children who have no credit on their accounts. Please note that if a debt exceeds one week's school lunches of £10.25 (£2.05 per day) a hot meal cannot be provided until the debt is cleared and the account is in credit. Please contact the school office if you think your child may be eligible for free school meals. Thank you for your support in this matter.

**100% Attendance - Autumn 2016**

Congratulations and well done to our 81 children who achieved 100% Attendance Award Certificates for the Autumn 2016 Term. Below is a breakdown by pupil numbers in each of our classes:

Year	Number of Pupils
Reception	11
1	9
2	13
3	8
4	14
5	13
6	13

**REMINDER: Requests for Leave of Absence 2016/2017**

At George Fentham we continue to encourage excellent attendance by all children. May we remind you that, in line with the Local Authority Solihull Attendance Policy, Head Teachers are only allowed to grant leave of absence in very exceptional circumstances and where the

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application has been made **two weeks in advance**. This does not include family holidays. Should you require any further information, or wish to discuss a leave of absence request please contact the school office. Thank you for your support in ensuring the very best attendance for your child.

**Notice about Enterprise House Car Park: Off Meadow Drive, Hampton in Arden**

**Please see this important message from:** James Dawson, Director, MC Trustees.

It has come to attention that a number of parents use the car park as a short cut to the school from Meadow Drive and Meadow Close.

The car park in the morning can be quite busy with staff arriving to work and we are concerned about the possibility of an accident taking place, which would be devastating for all concerned.

There is a sign on the gate to the car park stating that it is private property and we would like to kindly ask that parents please stop using it as a thoroughfare.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

**Dogs at School Gate**

Following comments from a number of parents we would like to ask for your support in ensuring dogs are not brought to the school gate, blocking access in the morning for children as they enter the school site. Not all children (or adults) are comfortable around dogs and it can be extremely frightening for a child to walk past a dog, particularly if it is jumping or barking.

We are asking, therefore, that dogs are kept well away from the school gate at all times. Thank you for your support in this matter.

**End of School Day**

At the end of the school day, all children are safely dismissed from the small playground by class teachers. If your child is going home with a different adult, it is critical that you inform school, otherwise we will need to contact you directly to obtain your permission. This can often be difficult and time consuming. Again, this system is in place to ensure the absolute safety of all of our children. Once children have been safely dismissed to you, we ask that they remain with you and are fully supervised. This enables us to accurately identify any child who has not been safely collected.

**Supervision of Nursery Children before 9.00am**

May we remind our Nursery parents that it is their responsibility to fully and safely supervise their own children until the Nursery children enter the school building at 9.00am. Please ensure children do not climb on the steps at the back of the BASE building. As always, our priority is to keep all children safe and we very much value your support in this matter.

**And finally.....**

On behalf of everyone at George Fentham Endowed School, I wish you all an enjoyable half-term and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

**Mrs J Gaughan**

**Head Teacher**

School website: [www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk](http://www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk)