

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 1 SPRING 2020**

February 2020

Term Dates	
SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	<u>2019/2020</u>
Spring Term	Mon 6 January 2020 - Fri 14 February 2020
Half Term	Mon 17 February 2020 - Fri 21 February 2020
	Mon 24 February 2020 - Fri 3 April 2020
Summer Term	Mon 20 April 2020 - Fri 22 May 2020 May Day Bank Holiday - Friday 8 May 2020
Half Term	Mon 25 May 2020 - Fri 29 May 2020
	Mon 1 June 2020 - Mon 20 July 2020
INSET DAYS	Friday 14 February 2020, Monday 1 June 2020, Monday 20 July 2020
	<u>2020/2021</u>
Autumn Term	Tue 1 September 2020 - Fri 18 December 2020
Half Term	Mon 26 October - Fri 30 October 2020
Spring Term	Mon 4 January 2021 - Thur 1 April 2021
Half Term	Mon 15 February - Fri 19 February 2021
Summer Term	Mon 19 April 2021 - Wed 21 July 2021 May Bank Holiday: Mon 3 May 2021
Half Term	Mon 31 May - Fri 4 June 2021
INSET DAYS	INSET Days to be advised

Dates for Diary 2020

Mon 2 March	Secondary 2020 Offer Day
Tue 3 March	Parent Consultation Evening
Wed 4 March	Parent's Evening
Thu 5 March	World Book Day
Mon 9 - Fri 13 March	Health Week
Mon 9 & Tue 10 March	Lifebus
Fri 13 March	Sport Relief
Mon 16 March	Open Book Assembly
Fri 3 April	Easter Service at Church
Thu 16 April	Reception 2020 Offer Day
Mon 18 May	PTFA Disco
Wed 3 June	Tempest Class Photographs
Mon 8- Fri 12 June	Year 5 Bikeability
Mon 29 June- Fri 3 July	Year 6 Residential Trip to Croft Farm
Fri 17 July	Year 6 Leavers Service at Church

URGENT: NUTS IN SCHOOL

An urgent reminder that we are a nut free school as we have some children who are severely allergic to nuts and foods which contain nuts.

We **INSIST** that nothing that has nuts or may contain nuts is brought into school in lunch boxes or as snacks for after school clubs.

If anything containing nuts is brought in to school, we will have no choice but to remove it for the safety of all of our children. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Break time Snacks

May we remind you that as a "Healthy School" we only allow fruit or vegetable snacks at break time.

Dietary Requirements / Food Allergies

Please note it is the responsibility of Parents or Carers to advise the school office, in writing, of any dietary requirements or food allergies for each individual child. Please note this is not required for food preferences but for medical conditions such as allergies or Religious Beliefs. This information will be stored on the child's record throughout school.

Medicines in School

Please be aware that a medicine permission form must be completed and discussed with a member of the office staff if your child requires any medicine during the school day or whilst on school site for extra activities e.g. clubs and discos. It is extremely important that all medicine has the prescription label clearly displayed on the medicine, stating your child's name, dose and frequency. If this information is displayed on packaging, we will need this packaging to be supplied. This arrangement will also apply for Calpol, therefore, if your child requires Calpol during the school day the bottle must have a label with the above details.

Should you wish to discuss this in any further detail, please contact the school office.

Please note copies of our medicine permission forms are available on our school website.

School Meals - Outstanding Debt

Parents of children in KS2:

From 1st September 2019 School meals have increased to £2.15 per day.

Please ensure that you check your account regularly and credit your account with sufficient funds to pay for your child's school lunches. If a debt exceeds one week's school lunches a hot meal cannot be provided until the debt is cleared and the account is in credit.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Please contact the school office if you think your child may be eligible for free school meals.

Health Week and Sports Relief

Health week is the week beginning 9th March. There will be lots of fun sporty activities happening including a sports relief fund raiser organised by Year 6. Keep an eye out for details, which will be shared early next half term!

Safer Internet Day



As part of this year's Safer Internet Day our children, from Reception through to Year 6, as well as all staff, enjoyed an assembly led by Mr Bass focused on the theme of:

"Free to be me - Exploring Online Identity".

This was followed up in class with further work supporting children's knowledge and understanding.

More details can be found on our website;

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

100% Attendance

Congratulations and well done to the 51 children who achieved 100% Attendance Award Certificates for the **Autumn Term 2019**. Below is a breakdown by pupil numbers in each of our classes:

Year	Number of Pupils
Reception	7
1	6
2	12
3	6
4	6
5	7
6	7

Class Events

Nursery: Playhouse Theatre

The Little Red Hen and her friends came in to see the Nursery children at the end of January when Playhouse Theatre company made their annual visit. The show was very interactive and allowed the children to play a role in the storytelling. We all had a lovely morning and, at the end, the children were able to taste the delicious bread that the Little Red Hen had made with our help!

Reception: Space

This term Reception have completed lots of work around the theme Space. We read the stories 'Whatever Next' and 'Back down to Earth with a Bump' which inspired our writing and role play. We found out about Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake and their adventures in Space. We have also looked at ways to look after Earth and created posters to show what we will do.

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Year 1: Amazing Africa

Year 1 have been working really hard this term on our theme 'Amazing Africa'. We have been learning about different African animals and are looking forward to our animal explorer day next half term!

We have also thoroughly enjoyed our gymnastics lessons this half term and have had a special visitor come in to school to teach us all about balance, travel sequences and a range of rolls including, a teddy bear roll, forward roll and an egg roll.

Year 2: Hockey Coaching

The children in Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed the last 6 weeks of Hockey coaching, despite some very cold days. With a focus on learning basic skills, building on these each week and developing a deeper understanding of teamwork the children have had great fun, whilst also showing great progress. Who knows - we may have some budding future Hockey stars?

Year 2: Recorder Club

Our Recorder Club continues, with those children carrying on from the Autumn term showing clear progression and those new this term catching up quickly. A big thank you to Mrs Sharpe for her patience and enthusiasm. The children are having a great time.

Year 3: Synagogue

On Wednesday 5th February, Year 3 visited the Synagogue in Solihull, as part of their RE focus on Judaism this half term. It was an interesting and enlightening trip, with plenty of opportunities to handle some beautiful artefacts and to see the traditions and wonders of the Jewish faith in action and at first hand. We were so fortunate, as always, to benefit from the support and involvement of our parent volunteers, for which we are very grateful, and the entire class conducted themselves with great aplomb, behaving in a way that was a credit to their families and to the school.

Year 4: Journeys

In Year 4 we have been looking at how journeys are depicted in Art. Through our own journey into Art History, the children have explored Art Deco, Impressionists and Renaissance Art. Bringing together the learning skills of creativity, absorption and resilience, the children have thrown themselves into creating pieces of art in the style of our focus artists and designers - we now have an Art Gallery in the classroom which is simply stunning.

We have started to compare European art with the traditions of Islamic art (linking to History and RE). Next half term, we will bring all of this amazing learning together when we go on an inspiring trip to create our own Islamic art pieces.

Year 5: *See Sporting section of our Newsletter.*

Year 6: Peter Pan

Once again, with the generosity of the George Fentham Trust, we attended a matinee in Birmingham. This year we had a change from the ballet and instead went to a performance of Peter Pan at Birmingham Repertory Theatre with some of the senior citizens from the Lunch Club. It was very exciting and innovative with actors "flying" round the stage against an urban backdrop. Many of the sets also used recycled materials e.g. Skull Island made of plastic bottles! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the show especially the children. Thanks again to the Trust.

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Year 6: Bollywood Dancing

As part of our India topic we once again invited the Bollywood dance teacher to instruct Year 6 (and Mrs. Edmeades!) in the intricacies of Bollywood dance. They spent an enthusiastic and energetic afternoon learning routines and then performing them together. This experience really supported the children in bringing their learning, all about India, to life.

Book Club

We have had an exciting half a term's worth of Book Club meetings for Years 4, 5 and 6 Book Club members. We started the term off with a bit of craft, making wildlife bookmarks which look fabulous.

Between us, we are reading a great variety of books from fantasy to mystery and even some horror too. What a treat it is to sit with the children and read books. It has been brilliant to see children so totally absorbed in their reading.

Due to popular demand, Book Club will be running next half term and letters will be sent out asking for our George Fentham Year 4, 5 and 6 bookworms to sign up once again.

The School Bank

Our School Bank is open every Wednesday morning from 8.30am - 9.00am for children, aged 7 years and over, to deposit money in their HSBC bank account. Mrs Lowe is ably assisted by a team of Year 6 children who all do a fantastic job!

Sporting Competition Updates

Congratulations to our Year 5 Dodgeball Team!

Following a very successful rural heat, the Year 5 Dodgeball Team made it to the Solihull finals on Tuesday 4th February. The Team were great ambassadors for the School Games Values of "honesty", "respect" and "teamwork". They played well and we could see a clear improvement in their skills, but unfortunately they did not win all their matches so will not be going through to the West Midlands competition. Well done Team - we are so proud of you!

Year 5 Inter-School Indoor Athletics

On Thursday 6th February, Year 5 went to Solihull Sixth Form College to compete in the Solihull Sports Hall Athletics Tournament. Everyone took part in at least one track and one field event. They jumped higher, threw further and ran faster than ever before and we were really proud of their achievements, especially those competing in events that were relatively new to them such as the triple jump and the over under relay. The teachers were delighted with the way the children embraced the spirit of the competition; brilliant behaviour, supporting and cheering each other on and approaching each challenge with determination. The beaming smiles said it all!

Football Club

We've had a fabulous 6 weeks of training, preparing us for the next round of matches beginning in March (when the weather is a little better and brighter). It's great that we also now have Anthony, from Little Football Stars, coaching our Key Stage 1 children, getting the next generation of George Fentham players ready.

A Message from Jet Dance Academy

Places are available in after school dance club! Every Wednesday in the main school hall, straight after school until 4.45pm. Join our qualified and passionate dance teachers to keep fit, learn

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technique and routines to perform! Certificates of recognition each week. Open to Years 1-6 (class is split into infants and juniors). Email info@jetdanceuk.com to book your trial lesson now!



PTFA Disco Monday 10th February 2020

Thank you to the members of the PTFA who organised and ran the school discos and to the parent and staff volunteers who helped out at this event. The children had great fun singing, dancing and joining in with some team games. Behaviour was excellent!



The BASE

Please be aware that The Base is run by a Voluntary Management Committee which is completely separate to George Fentham Endowed School. Therefore, if you have any queries regarding The Base or about places, please contact Mrs Tina Coley directly on 01675 443913.

REMINDER: Mobile Phones in School

May we remind you that mobile phones must not be used in school. The only exception to this is if parents use their phones to take photographs, of their own child, for their own personal use at the end of Class Assemblies or Performances. We request that these images are not published on any form of social media. This is in line with our school policies and procedures. Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off and put away at all other times. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Reporting Absence from School

Please may we remind parents and carers to ensure they call our absence line or email the School office by 9:00am on the first day and all subsequent further days of their child's absence. Absence which is not reported in this way will be recorded as unauthorised and could result in further action.

Please be advised if a child is absent due to sickness or diarrhoea, a minimum of 48 hours from the last episode is required before returning to school.

REMINDER: Attendance and Requests for Leave of Absence

To support us to secure good attendance for all of our pupils and to address concerns regarding any child's poor school attendance and punctuality, we will be continuing to work with Central School Attendance and Welfare Service Ltd (CSAWS) in 2019/20. Each half term, attendance registers are rigorously scrutinised to identify any attendance issues. This includes children falling below 95% attendance, children who are below 90% attendance and therefore at risk of becoming persistent absentees, children with any unauthorised absence and any punctuality concerns.

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Your child may be referred to a CSAWS Attendance and Welfare Officer if their attendance and punctuality is causing concern. They will then contact you by phone, letter or home visit to discuss the school's concerns and how attendance and punctuality can be improved.

Please note, Head Teachers are only allowed to grant leave of absence in **very exceptional circumstances** and where the 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.

Medical, Dental & Optician Appointments

Following advice from CSAWS, we would like to ask for your support in organising medical, dental and optician appointments outside of the school day. Please note if there is no alternative, you may be asked to show a copy of your appointment letter or card to the school office.

And finally.....

We wish you all an enjoyable half term and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 24th February 2020.

Mrs J Gaughan
Head Teacher

PLEASE SEE THE MESSAGE BELOW WHICH SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CASCADE:

Subject: Coronavirus – Updated advice to all early years providers, schools and further education providers Department for Education

The government is monitoring Coronavirus and taking action at home and abroad. The risk to individuals remains low.

Please share the guidance below with your staff and cascade as appropriate.

Advice to those who have travelled recently

Public Health England has changed the advice for individuals who have travelled recently as follows:

Travellers from Wuhan and Hubei Province

If you have travelled from Wuhan or Hubei Province to the UK in the last 14 days you should immediately:

- stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with the flu
- call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel to the area

Please follow this advice even if you do not have symptoms of the virus.

Travellers from other parts of China and other specified areas

This advice applies to travellers who have returned to the UK from the following areas:

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- Elsewhere in China
- Thailand
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Hong Kong
- Taiwan
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Macau

If you have returned to the UK from any of these areas in the last 14 days and develop symptoms of cough or fever or shortness of breath, you should immediately:

- stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with the flu
- call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel to the country

Encouraging good hygiene

As always, if you have symptoms of a cold or flu, then there are measures you can take

- always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze. Then bin the tissue, and wash your hands, or use a sanitiser gel.
- wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using public transport. Use a sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

Latest information Updates on Coronavirus:

- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

Public Health England blog:

- <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronaviruswhat-you-need-to-know/>