

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 1 SPRING 2022**

February 2022

Term Dates	
SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	
	<u>2022</u>
Spring Term	Tuesday 4 th January 2022 - Friday 8 th April 2022
Half Term	Monday 21 st February 2022 - Friday 25 th February 2022
Summer Term	Monday 25 th April 2022 - <u>Thursday 21st July 2022</u> - one day's holiday to be taken in place of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday on Friday 22 nd July 2022 (The actual date of Friday 3 rd June 2022 is during the Summer half term holiday.) May Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May 2022
Half Term	Monday 30 th May 2022 - Friday 3 rd June 2022
INSET DAYS	Monday 28th February 2022 & Monday 6th June 2022

Dates for Diary 2021-2022

2022

Tue 15 th Feb pm	Y4 Cheerleading starts
Thu 17 th Feb	Y3 trip to Mad Museum, Stratford-upon-Avon
Tue 1 st March	Secondary School Offer Day
Mon 7 th - Fri 11 th March	Health Week
Fri 25 th March 11.30am	Nursery Mother's Day Celebration
Wed 6 th April 10.45am	Chance to Shine Cricket Assembly
Tue 19 th April	Reception September 2022 - Offer Day
Mon 25 th April pm	Chance to Shine Cricket Programme Y4 & Y5 starts
Mon 9 th - Thu 12 th May	KS2 SATs Testing
Wed 15 th June am	Tempest Photography - Individual Photographs
Thu 30 th - Fri 1 st July	Solihull MBC Secondary School Transition Days
Wed 6 th July	Y4 Chance to Shine Cricket Festival- Berkswell CC
Thu 7 th July	Y5 Chance to Shine Cricket Festival- Berkswell CC

COVID - 19 Update and Remote Learning

Thank you to all of our Parents and Carers for their on-going vigilance and prompt action regarding COVID-19 testing and isolation. As a result, COVID-19 cases in school have dropped significantly. We continue to monitor the situation on a daily basis and are providing remote learning for any child who is off school due to COVID-19. Please contact the school office should you have any concerns or require any assistance.

SEND Reviews

After half term, Mrs Morris will be inviting Parents and Carers to make an appointment for a review meeting. These will take place on Tuesday 15th March and Wednesday 16th March. Booking details will be sent out via Parent Pay.

Parent Consultations

We will be holding Parent Consultations on Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st March 2022. Further information regarding the format of these meetings and the booking process will be sent out after half term.

Parent and Carer Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who completed our Parent Questionnaire. We had 107 responses which were overwhelmingly positive. Your feedback is really important and helps us to evaluate our provision and identify areas for improvement. We are currently carrying out a detailed analysis of all responses and look forward to sharing further information with you next half term.

Class Curriculum and Events

Please see our school website for information on our Curriculum. This is currently organised in subjects and you can click on each subject to see what your child is learning. Each half term our newsletter contains a short update highlighting some of the great things going on in class and across the school.

Next half term we will be publishing our revised class overviews which will provide you with further information on what your child is learning. Our teachers are working hard to update these and look forward to sharing them with you.

Nursery:

Nursery children have had a busy half-term with work based on well-loved stories and traditional tales and rhymes. We have been on a Bear Hunt, made houses for the little pigs, 'written' letters to the Big Bad Troll, painted portraits of bears and collaborated to build bridges for the three billy goats and much more. We also invited our teddy bears into school and held a porridge party!

Mrs Durkin

Reception:

This term Reception have had a really busy time completing lots of work around our Space theme. We have read the stories 'Whatever Next' and 'How to Catch a Star' which inspired our writing and role play. We found out about famous astronauts, Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake. We have looked at stars and the different constellations to look out for in the night sky.

Also during this half term, we have learnt about the Lunar New Year and how it is celebrated in China! We had a fantastic week preparing and cooking a Chinese noodle dish and performing dragon dances in P.E.

Everyone has worked so hard. I am so proud of you all.



Mrs Brown

Year 1:

This half term we have been very busy learning all about 'Amazing Africa'. We have been reading lots of African related books in English and writing some super descriptive sentences.

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In Art, we have created our own African silhouette landscapes, thinking very carefully about the colours we might see when the sun begins to set over the Savannah Plains. We have also been finding out about a textile artist named Gunta Stolz, who created some wonderful pieces of art by weaving. She used colours and patterns inspired from Africa, especially Kente cloth.

Next half term we will be finding out about all the animals that are found in Africa and learning all about them.

The children have been brilliant and have thoroughly embraced their learning. Thank you, Year 1!

Mrs Salmon and Mrs Barratt

Year 2:

We have had a great first half of the Spring term, in Year 2.

One of our main themes this half term has been 'Space'. We have focused on a book called 'Man on the Moon' by Simon Bartram.

In English, we have produced a wonderful range of posters - information posters about the Moon and Mars, using appropriate features, and persuasive posters, trying to convince people to help 'Bob', the main character in the story, to keep the Moon clean. We had great fun designing and creating our incredible 'Moon Buggies', designed for Bob, in Design & Technology. These are all now part of a wonderful display in the Year 2 classroom (see picture).

In History, we have been learning all about the 'Plague' of 1665. The children have loved using their historical enquiry skills to find out how it started, what the symptoms were (especially the gruesome ones) and what was done to try and stop it. Despite, initially, being scared of the Plague Doctors and their strange masks, the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about them and discovering that the Nursery Rhyme 'Ring a ring o roses' is in fact about the Plague. We now look forward to learning about the 'Great Fire of London' in Spring 2.



Mr Bass

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Year 3:

Year 3 have been really enjoying their swimming lessons at the XCEL centre this term. They have been developing confidence in the water and have all made lots of progress already at their own pace. We have been really proud of how all pupils have conducted themselves outside of school, demonstrating fantastic listening skills, enthusiasm and perseverance in developing new skills.

Year 3 have also had a brilliant morning at the MAD Museum as part of our learning in Science on Forces and Magnets. The children were able to explore the amazing displays of mechanical art and automata and were able to apply their excellent knowledge and understanding of all the forces they have been learning about in school.

Mrs Hodge

Year 4:

We have been immersed in our learning about the Golden Age of Islam this half term and this has linked to our Arabian Nights unit of work in English. The children have been researching and exploring a rich heritage of culture, art and storytelling. We have also been learning about art history, investigating paintings from Renaissance art, Impressionist art and Art Deco art. We are creating our own art gallery in the classroom. Year 4 have continued their weekly strings lessons and have been developing their musicality. There is so much to learn, and the children are amazed at how quickly their skills are improving.

Well done Year 4 - what a creative class you are!

Mrs Brooker and Mrs Briggs

Year 5:

Year five have been impressing us with their musical talents. They have been learning to play 'Egypt- The Gift of the Nile' on the glockenspiels and singing the accompaniment. Keeping in time and singing as a group can be tricky, but it has been lovely to see them using their perseverance and determination to produce a beautiful, finished piece. In science we have begun a new topic on properties of materials and changes. The children have proven to be great scientists testing materials and experimenting with different mixtures. We look forward to continuing this after half term.

Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Kermodie

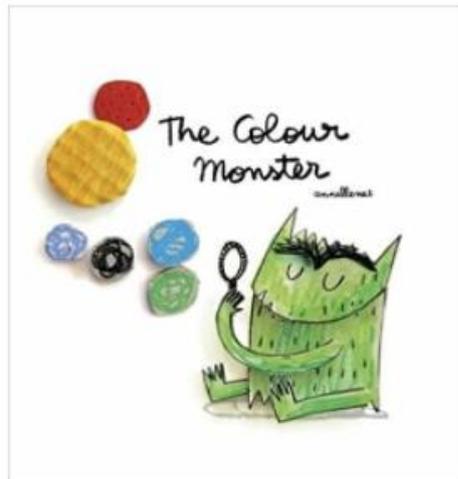
Year 6:

Year 6 have had a busy half term. We had a sports coach in to train the children in Playground Leadership and we have some willing volunteers to start supporting the younger children in their play at lunchtimes after half term. In class we have been learning all about India and this has included reading the book "Broken Glass" about two street children, learning about the geography of India, creating some beautiful Indian patterns for press-printing and learning some Bollywood-style dance. We are also learning about Hinduism in RE. Next half term we are looking forward to designing and making a vegetable curry!

Mrs Edmeades and Miss Timothy

Health Week

The week commencing 7th March will be our annual whole school 'Health Week'. The theme for the week will be 'Emotion Coaching'. Emotion Coaching is the practice of tuning into children's feelings, and supporting them to cope with — and self-regulate - negative emotions like fear, anger, and sadness. Emotion Coaching is based on the principle that nurturing and emotionally supportive relationships provide optimal contexts for the promotion of children's outcomes and resilience. Mrs Gaughan will launch the week with a whole school assembly based on the book 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas. The shared language and imagery from the story scaffolds children's ability to name and understand their emotions. Follow-up work will then be carried out in classrooms throughout the week.



Next half term all classes will be using JIGSAW materials from the 'Healthy Me' unit of work. This covers two main areas of health: emotional and mental health (relaxation, being safe, friendships, mental health skills, body image, relationships with food, managing stress) and Physical health (eating a balanced diet, physical activity, rest and relaxation, keeping clean, drugs and alcohol, being safe, first aid). All lessons are delivered in an age and stage-appropriate way so that they meet children's needs. Every Jigsaw lesson includes mindfulness practice. Mindfulness is being able to observe your own thoughts and feelings as they happen, in the present moment, applying no judgement. Jigsaw teaches children to understand their thoughts and feelings through the 'Calm Me' time exercises. This helps to develop their awareness, and their capacity to be mindful human beings. Learning is thus enhanced as emotions and behaviour are self-regulated.

Mrs Morris

GFES Football Team

This half term has seen 3 further matches for the Year 5 and 6 team. It began back in January with a hard fought 1 - 1 draw with Cheswick Green. After dominating for long periods and some wonderful passing play, we conceded an equaliser late on. Then, just last week, we had 2 further matches that really showed how football truly is a game of "two halves". In the first match, against St George & St Theresa, we slipped 4 - 1 down at half time and heads really dropped. A stern half time talk and the team went out and 'won' the second half 1 - 0. Even though they lost 4 - 2 overall, Mr Bass was so proud of the way they showed resilience and bounced back in the second half. The second match, against Hockley Heath, was a tight affair and saw George Fentham's team play brilliantly in the first half. We were unlucky to go in at half time drawing 1 - 1. In the second half, Hockley Heath improved and snuck a late goal to deny us a point (a 2 - 1 loss).

Mr Bass is so proud of all the players who have represented the school team so far and is looking forward to picking others from the squad to join in in our remaining matches.

Mr Bass

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Safer Internet Day



On Tuesday, 8th February, we engaged with 'Safer Internet Day', a worldwide event involving people from over 170 countries and thousands of children all over the UK. We held two assemblies, led by Mr Bass, in EYFS/KS1 and KS2 with the elected members of the Online Safety Committee supporting him in raising awareness of staying safe when online and launching a whole school 'Design an Online Safety

Poster' competition. At George Fentham our Computing curriculum has Online Safety threaded throughout each unit we teach, so children regularly learn different aspects of how to stay safe online, and we are always developing our provision to reflect new technologies and changes in online safety. Please see our separate letter regarding other activities based on 'Safer Internet Day', as well as details of the poster competition and where you, as Parents, can find information and support to help you better understand how to stay safe online.

Mr Bass

Eco- Council Update

Our Eco-councillors have had a very busy half-term and are currently working on a number of initiatives. One focus for this half-term has been to ensure that every classroom has its own paper recycling bin, this has now been achieved and there will be a big push next half-term to ensure that all children know exactly what needs to be recycled in the classroom, avoiding the temptation of putting recyclable rubbish into the general black bin. Our councillors have also undertaken a research project aiming to investigate how many glue-sticks are used over the course of a school year with the intention of writing to a glue-stick manufacturer to find out whether glue-sticks could be better recycled.

This last week of half-term has been very exciting for all the children at George Fentham with an eco-initiative, 'GFES Bird Watch 2022'. We have joined the national school bird watch initiative whose aim it is to count the different types of birds that can be seen in our local area. Every lunch time, children have been given the option to join in by taking a pair of binoculars, a clip board and a tick chart and asked to try to identify the birds that they see.

Finally, coming soon with more details to follow... we are joining forces with Solihull Zero Wasters and taking part in a toy amnesty, with unwanted or broken powered toys can be recycled and saved from landfill. There are lots more initiatives in the pipeline too... A big thanks to all the eco-councillors for their continued hard work, together we can make a difference!

Mrs Briggs

Spring 1 2022 Clubs & Music Lessons

Day	During the school day	After-school
Monday		3.20 - 4.30pm Jet Dance School Club
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Strings Lessons Wider Opportunities - Y4 Strings	
Thursday	Woodwind	3.20-4.20 pm Year 1 Sports Club
Friday	Keyboard & Guitars	3.20-4.20 pm Year 2 Sports Club

PE Clubs

Mrs Bradburn and the coaches would like to say thank you to all the Year 1 and 2 children who took part in the after school clubs this half term. It has been clear to see how much you have enjoyed yourselves and the coaches are really pleased with your development. Your club will return in Summer 2.

Next half term (Spring 2) the after school clubs will be open to the children in years 5 and 6. Keep an eye on parent pay as the consent slips will be on their way shortly.

A Message from Mrs Bradburn regarding A Local Cycling Event



BIKE IT Solihull

**Shirley Park Community Cycling Hub
Launch Event - Saturday 19th February**
Join in with free cycling activities: 9.30am-1.30pm

Address: Shirley Park, Stratford Road, Shirley, B90 3AL

(Activities will be set up on the grass area next to the new cycling hub, which is past the tennis courts & dog agility area & next to the old car park behind Grenville Road)

- Dr Bike 9.30am-1.30pm*: Qualified mechanics are available for bike checks & minor repairs. To avoid disappointment book in via Eventbrite or just turn up on the day. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shirley-park-dr-bike-session-tickets-261807101087
- Guided Ride 9.30-11.30am: A group cycle ride led by a qualified ride leader. Bikes & helmets available to borrow. <https://letsride.co.uk/rides/shirley-breeze>
- Cycle security marking: Protect your bike, get it on the national Bike Register.
- Adapted Bikes will be available to try, courtesy of Midland Mencap.
- Come & try the new hub bikes!* There will also be an electric mountain bike & an electric folding bike to try.
- Also, share your views on what types of cycling activities you would like to see provided at the new cycling hubs.

Please carry out a LFT prior to attending and DO NOT attend if positive or if exhibiting any symptoms.

*Collection of basic participant information required for funders and/or if bikes are borrowed.

OWN THE RIDE  

If you would like further information please email solihullactive@solihull.gov.uk



Charities



MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE

The Great Daffodil Appeal 2022

Throughout the month of March daffodils with a pin and a plastic securer will be on sale in the Nursery or the school Office. *A minimum donation of 50p is requested.*

Thank you for your support.

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 2021-22. 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.

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, Headteachers 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.

Medicines in School - REMINDER

Our Medicines in School and Administering Medicines policy are both on our school website, along with the permission forms for prescribed and over the counter medicines.

Should your child require any medicine during the school day, please complete the relevant form and speak directly to a member of the office staff.

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.

Dietary Requirements / Food Allergies

Please note it is the responsibility of Parents/Carers to advise the school office, in writing, of any dietary requirements or food allergies for each individual child. 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.

Healthy Schools: Break time Snacks

As part of our Healthy Schools approach, we ask for your support in **only sending in pure fresh or dried fruit and vegetables for morning snack**. No other snacks are permitted. Please note

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fresh fruit or vegetables are provided by school for all children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Key Stage 2 children should be provided with a fruit or vegetable snack from home. Children have access to their water bottles during the day and are regularly reminded to drink. Please encourage your child to do this and **ensure that drinking bottles contain water only**. Should you wish your child to have milk at break time details are available from the school office.

No Nuts in School

We have a number of children in school who have a severe nut allergy. These allergies can be life threatening. **In order to keep all of our children safe, please ensure that you do not send any nuts or products containing nuts into school with your child, at any time.**

School Meals - Outstanding Debt

Parents of children in KS2:

School meals are currently £2.20 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.

The BASE

The BASE provides before and after school care and Nursery wrap around care during term time. The BASE is not run by school, but by a completely separate Voluntary Management Committee. If you have any queries regarding this provision, please contact Mrs Tina Coley directly on 01675 443913.

And finally.....

On behalf of everyone at George Fentham Endowed School, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable half term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Tuesday 1st March 2022.**

Mrs J Gaughan
Headteacher