

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 1 SPRING 2023**

February 2023



Term Dates	
SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	
	<u>2022/2023</u>
Autumn Term	Monday 5 th September 2022 - Friday 16 th December 2022
Half Term	Monday 24 th October 2022 - Friday 28 th October 2022
Spring Term	Tuesday 3 rd January 2023 - Friday 31 st March 2023
Half Term	Monday 20 th February 2023 - Friday 24 th February 2023
Summer Term	Monday 17 th April 2023 - Tuesday 25 th July 2023
Half Term	Monday 29 th May 2023 - Friday 2 nd June 2023 May Bank Holiday: Monday 1 st May 2023 Bank Holiday: Monday 8 th May 2023 - His Majesty's Coronation
INSET DAYS	Monday 5 th September 2022, Friday 21 st October 2022, Monday 31 st October 2022, Tuesday 3 rd January 2023.
CHANGE OF DATE	CHANGE TO INSET DAY FROM FRIDAY 26TH MAY 2023 TO FRIDAY 28TH APRIL 2023 - please see below*.
	<u>2023/2024</u>
Autumn Term	Monday 4 th September 2023 - Friday 22 nd December 2023
Half Term	Monday 30 th October 2023 - Friday 3 rd November 2023
Spring Term	Monday 8 th January 2024 - Friday 22 nd March 2024
Half Term	Monday 12 th February 2024 - Fri 16 th February 2024
Summer Term	Monday 8 th April 2024- Monday 22 nd July 2024
Half Term	Monday 27 th May 2024 - Friday 31 st May 2024 May Bank Holiday: Monday 6 th May 2024
INSET DAYS	To be advised

*Inset days are used for staff training and development, providing an excellent opportunity to work with other agencies and professionals. Unfortunately, we have had to change the date of our last inset day due to the revised availability of the Educational Psychologist who will be providing training to staff. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this has caused.

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Dates for Diary 2022-2023

2023

Mon 13 th February	GFES Football Team matches
Tue 14 th February	Year 5 & 6 Netball Skills after school competition
Thu 16 th February	Year 3 My Personal Best Festival
Fri 17 th February	Earthquake Appeal - Non Uniform Day
Fri 17 th February	Year 5 River Study Trip - Hams Hall
Mon 27 th February	Year 6 Health Questionnaire
Tue 28 th February 3.30-4.30pm	Book Fayre
Wed 1 st March	Secondary Offer Day
Thur 2 nd March	World Book Day
Thur 2 nd March 4.30-5.30pm	PTFA Disco, Reception to Year 2
Thur 2 nd March 5.45-6.45pm	PTFA Disco, Year 3 to Year 6
Wed 8 th March pm	GFES Girls Football match
Fri 10 th March	Year 5 Rainforest Roadshow
Mon 13 th March	KS2 Archery after school competition
Tue 14 th March	Year 1 African Explorer Day
Tue 14 th March	GFES Boys Football match
Tue 21 st March	Year 4 visit to Cadbury World (tbc)
Tue 28 th March	Bee Netball Festival
Thur 30 th March	PTFA Bunny Bingo
Mon 17 th April	Reception 2023 Offer Day
Tue 18 th April	Y4 & Y5 Chance to Shine Cricket Programme commences
Thur 27 th April am	Year 4 visit to the Central Mosque
Tue 2 nd - Fri 5 th May	Year 5 Bikeability
Tue 2 nd - Fri 5 th May	Reception "Get Pedalling"
Thur 4 th May	Year 3 visit to Compton Verney
Tue 9 th - Fri 12 th May	KS2 SATs Week
Mon 15 th May	Nursery Living Eggs
Wed 17 th May am	Playhouse Theatre performance for Nursery
Wed 17 th May pm	Playhouse Theatre performance for Reception
Mon 12 th June	Reception Trip to Parkridge, Brueton Park (tbc)
Wed 14 th - Fri 16 th June	Year 6 Residential at Culmington Manor
Wed 21 st June	Tempest Photography - class photos
Thu 22 nd June	Year 6 Borough Athletics Competition
Wed 5 th July	Year 4 Chance Festival at Berkswell CC
Thur 6 th July	Year 5 Chance Festival at Berkswell CC
Fri 7 th July	Year 5 trip to Bishops Wood Field Centre (Anglo Saxons)
Thur 13 th July	Nursery & Reception "Animals In Hands" (tbc)

Class Assemblies 2023

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to our class assemblies. Please see the provisional dates below. Further individual class details will be sent out, confirming dates and times.

Year Group	Dates
Reception	Friday 14 th July
Year 1	Friday 19 th May
Year 2	Friday 9 th June

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Year 3	Friday 30 th June
Year 4	Friday 7 th July
Year 5	Friday 26 th May
Year 6	Dates to be confirmed for Church Services and Y6 Leavers' Assembly at the end of the summer term.

Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Cuff to George Fentham Endowed School. Mrs Cuff is an experienced Teaching Assistant and is currently working in Year 2. She has made an excellent start and is really enjoying working with our Year 2 children.

We have 2 additional Teaching Assistants working up in Key Stage 2 this term. Mrs Mistry is working in Year 6 and Mrs Reagan is working in Year 5. This has enabled us to provide additional teaching and learning support in these classes.

Class Events

Nursery

This spring half-term, Nursery children have been listening to, retelling and enjoying favourite stories and traditional tales. We have been on a bear hunt, we have designed and made houses for the little pigs and made porridge to share with our teddies. We have also made biscuits for Little Red Riding hood to take to Grandma and, of course, we've also been working hard on our phonics and number skills.

Mrs Durkin

Reception

This term Reception have had a really busy time completing lots of activities around the theme Zoom, Rocket, Zoom. We have read the stories 'Whatever Next' and 'How to Catch a Star' which have 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. The children designed and made their own rockets, selecting resources and materials independently.

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 of activities preparing and cooking a Chinese noodle dish, making money wallets and lanterns and also performing a dragon dance in P.E. Everyone has worked so hard. I am so proud of you all.



Mrs Brown

Year 1

This term Year 1's topic is 'Amazing Africa' and the children have really enjoyed all their learning so far. In English we have been looking at the story of 'Handa's Surprise' and the children have been using adjectives to describe the different fruits. They have also really enjoyed the story 'Meerkat Mail' and we even have our own Sunny the meerkat who has been going to stay with children at their houses. In Geography, Year 1 have started to learn the location of the seven continents and five oceans and they can locate the equator on a world map or globe. We found out that Handa lives in Kenya, and we located Kenya on a map of Africa and identified the human and

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physical features by looking at a selection of photos. In Art, the children have learnt about East African Kente Cloth patterns and discovered what the different colours mean. As well as all of this, we have been adding and subtracting to 20 in maths, using the film 'The Jungle book' as our inspiration in our dance lessons and learning about the different types of animals (reptiles, mammals, birds, fish and amphibians) in science! We are so proud of how hard the children have been working and how much they are trying to improve their concentration during lessons. Have a wonderful half term and we look forward to continuing with more fantastic work on Amazing Africa when the children return to school!

Mrs Salmon & Mrs Mandell

Year 2

Infant Agility Festival

All of the children in Year 2 had a wonderful time taking part in the Solihull Agility Festival at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre and were a credit to both the school and you as parents, showing great perseverance and resilience, as well as many of our School Games Values. Competing in 5 different 'agility' events (Bouncer, Jumper, Thrower, Pitcher and Runner) the children had to aim to 'beat their best', tweaking their technique each time to try and improve their own score. The scores were then collated and we now wait to find out how we did, when compared to the other competing schools from the area.

As part of our learning this half term, the children have used their Design & Technology skills to help them design and create their own FANTASTIC Moon Buggies to help 'Bob', the main character in one of our English texts, to do his job of keeping the Moon clean. They've also used their writing skills to produce some wonderful posters and postcards as well.

In maths we have been learning about money and multiplication, enjoying seeing the patterns and relationships between them and finding ways to make different amounts.

The children have loved our history topic - The Plague - and finding out how it started, how it spread and what people did to try and stop it. Their favourite part was learning about the Plague Doctors.

There are too many wonderful things to mention but, throughout all our topics, the children have been so focused, asking great questions and I am so proud of them.

Mr Bass

Year 3

Mad Museum Visit

Year 3 had a fabulous trip to the MAD Museum as part of our learning on Forces and Magnets in Science. We saw some fantastic displays which demonstrated both contact and non-contact forces in action which we have discussed with enthusiasm back in the classroom.

In English, we have been perfecting our poetry and have immersed ourselves in a range of different poetry styles including list poems, shape poems, acrostic poems, Kenning poems and riddles. We have used thesauruses to generate more adventurous vocabulary and have enjoyed playing around with word order in our poems to produce alliterative phrases and rhyming couplets. Each week we are amazing our teachers with our swimming. We have been working incredibly hard on being streamlined in the water and there is notable improvement in our stamina! Well done Year 3, your efforts are paying off and we can really see the difference!

Year 3 had a brilliant time taking part in the My Commonwealth Games PB Festival at Tudor Grange Tennis Centre. This term, we have been practicing a range of different personal best challenges linked to different Commonwealth Game sports, including Netball, Basketball, Volleyball, Athletics, Rugby and Hockey. On Thursday 16th February, we were able to showcase what we'd learned along with other schools in Solihull. We worked hard to beat our previous scores and set personal bests in all 7 challenges. As always, we conducted ourselves brilliantly outside of school and our teachers were really proud of us!

Mrs Hodge

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Year 4

Roman Soldier

During the first week of term, Year 4 were very fortunate to spend a day with a Roman visitor. We started the morning learning how to be soldiers, including how to protect ourselves with shields and how to march in formation (it was really hard to keep together). We were surprised to discover how heavy all their equipment was too; especially the chain mail. Back in the classroom we had to really concentrate whilst using dip pens to write our names using the Greek alphabet. We also made pottery images like the ancient Greeks made when they went to pray in the temple. Finally, at the end of a busy day, everyone enjoyed learning about the gladiators. We even had the chance to act out being a gladiator using spears and nets!

This half term in English, the children have been immersed in their learning of the features and dramatic language of the stories in the Arabian Nights. Children have explored the intensity of vocabulary and the rich descriptive text that has brought the stories to life in their imaginations. All this learning has culminated in the writing of their own adventure story for Sinbad, a key character in the book. This topic has also linked beautifully to our history topic, the Golden Age of Islam. Our budding musicians have also been working hard in their weekly strings lesson and it has been wonderful to watch the children progress in developing their musical skills. They are now confident at playing a number of pieces of music and are continually increasing their knowledge of musical terms.

Mrs Briggs & Mrs Gibbons

Year 5

Young Voices

On Friday the 13th January, Class 5 travelled to Resorts World Arena to take part in a Young Voices 2023 concert. It was the culmination of many weeks of hard work learning a wide variety of songs and dance moves, from memory, for a performance as part of one of Britain's largest primary school choirs - over 6,400 children in total! All children are to be commended for the way in which they approached learning a very large repertoire of music in school, and at home, and with such dedication.

Being part of Young Voices provided the children with the opportunity to perform in one of the world's greatest arenas alongside talented musicians, including celebrated artist Heather Small and The Beatbox Collective, learning music that was new to them as well as music that the children were familiar with, such as a medley of music from the film Trolls. It was a fabulous way to help the confidence and motivation of the children, to work as part of a wider community group and to bring families together through music. Mrs Kermodé, Mrs Bradburn, Mrs Bailey and Mrs Kelly were so proud of the way that all children conducted themselves on the day, showing great enthusiasm for the occasion as well as care and friendship for each other. They were a real credit to their families and wonderful ambassadors for our school. Well done to each and every one of you!

Mrs Bradburn & Mrs Kermodé

Year 6

Year 6 have been very busy this half term learning all about India. As well as locating India on a world map, its continent, neighbouring countries and seas, we have also been learning all about the climate and the causes and effects of the monsoon season.

I have been really impressed with the children's art work this half term: we have been exploring through sketch work, different patterns and shapes found within Indian culture. We have created our own intricate Mehndi hands using pencil, ink drawing and coloured pencils and printed our designs onto tiles, using rotation and appropriate cultural colours. Once dry, we are hoping to create a wonderful display!

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In PE, through Indian Dance, we have been learning how to express our feelings and portray stories through hand, neck, foot and head movements, alongside facial expressions. We have really enjoyed vibrant Bhangra dancing.

Well done Year 6! You have worked incredibly hard this half term. I am very proud of you.

Miss Timothy

Children's Mental Health Week 6th-10th February

This year the theme for Children's Mental Health Week was 'Let's Connect.' It was chosen to encourage children to talk to others, share experiences and just enjoy spending time with people who make them smile!

Within school, we launched the week with an assembly, led by Mrs Bailey, where we looked at who the children could make safe, healthy, meaningful connections with and how they could do this.

We discussed how it was important to look after our own mental health and the benefits that strong, healthy relationships have on their wellbeing.

The children took part in a range of activities during their PSHE lessons, over the course of the week, to further promote the 'Let's Connect' theme.

Eco Council

Over the course of the half-term, our eco-councillors have met on a number of occasions with two clear goals in mind: to organise George Fentham's Bird Watch Week and to agree on, and begin, the school's research project. Bird Watch Week is an activity designed by the Royal Society for Protection of Birds, the intention being to identify and count the different species of birds that can be seen around the school environment. Our Bird Watch Week took place in the last week of half-term and lots of children across the school have enjoyed participating. The eco-councillors organised the event splendidly and should be extremely proud of their achievement. Our research project is due to start after the half-term holiday. Every class will be collecting and recycling used biro's, felt tip pens and high-lighter pens, all of which have previously not been recyclable and would normally go to landfill. Over the remainder of the school year, eco-council will keep you updated on the weight of plastic being sent for recycling. Well done eco-councillors for working so hard!

Mrs Briggs

PE and Sports Update

Year 5 Dodgeball Team

On Monday 16th January our Year 5 Dodgeball Team took part in the Rural Collaborative Tournament at Arden Secondary School. This was a develop tournament which used spirit scoring to assist the competition. This meant our fabulous year 5's had to demonstrate outstanding teamwork, honesty and respect as well as brilliant dodgeball skills. I was really proud of our team as I could hear them encouraging each other and coordinating throws from the side lines. It was also the first outing of our new team kit, so they looked fabulous too. When all the scores were counted, they came 4th overall. Well done!

Football Fixtures

Boys: Captained by Olly Haywood/Leo Hadley -Farnan

GFES 1 - Hockley Heath 1

GFES 1 - St Margaret's 1

GFES 3 - Cheswick Green 3

The boys faced lots of tough competition, playing the two teams at the top of the league in their fixtures this half term. The games have been fast end to end matches with the boys having to show brilliant strength and skill. Twice the boys have gone ahead, only for the opposition to snatch

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a goal for the draw. They should be very proud of themselves as they are currently sitting joint 2nd in their group.

Next Fixture 14.3.23 Vs Meriden

Girls: Captained by Luna Gardner

GFES 0 - Knowle 5

GFES 0 - Peterbrook 3

The girls' scores do not reflect the growth of skill and enthusiasm we have seen in the team over this half term. On the pitch they have begun to find space and hold their positions to create some beautiful passages of play. They are strong in defence, showing their determination to stop the opposition. All we need now is the confidence to attack more and get that next goal. I am delighted that they are holding 3rd place in their league. Fantastic teamwork girls!

Next fixture 8.3.23 Vs Dickens Heath

Dates for the diary - Bee Netball Festival 28.3.23 Our first outing for the GFES Netball team.

Sports Clubs

Our spring timetable is in full swing. These clubs will continue after half term until Easter. Children do not need to register. It has been lovely to see increased take up of these clubs over the last few weeks. Please encourage your child to participate every week and show commitment to their chosen club. We still have a few spaces left in the after school clubs. Please ask the children to collect a letter from Class 5 if they are interested.

	<u>Lunch time</u>	<u>Afterschool</u>
<u>Monday</u>		Jet Dance 3.20 -4.30pm Open access via Jet Dance
<u>Tuesday</u>	KS2 Sports Club By invitation only (12) Natalie Hardy- Adaptive Sports 12.40pm -1.15pm	KS2 Girls football (32) Open access 3.20pm - 4.20pm Megan Smirles & Louis Andrews- Sports Development
<u>Wednesday</u>	KS1 Sports Club By invitation only (12) Chloe Ebbon -Adaptive sports 12.20pm -1pm	KS2 Boys football (32) Open access 3.20pm - 4.20pm Simon Harrison & Ben Maxwell- Sports Development
<u>Thursday</u>	Year 1 & 2 Multisport Club Open access (16) Natalie Hardy- Adaptive Sports 12.40pm -1.15pm	Year 3 & 4 Multisport Club Open access (32) 3.20pm - 4.20pm Natalie Hardy & Bel Chefri- Adaptive Sports
<u>Friday</u>		KS2 Netball Club Open access (32) 3.20pm - 4.20pm Natalie Hardy & Chloe Ebbon- Adaptive Sports

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After the Half term (weather permitting) the afterschool clubs would like to use the school field. **We politely remind all parents that the school has priority in this instance and kindly ask you not to use the field at these times. This is an important safeguarding issue and we need your support to enable us to maintain our duty of care for the children who attend sports clubs. Thanking you in advance for your cooperation.**

Mrs Bradburn

Spring 2023 Music Lessons Timetable

Day	Music Lessons
Monday	N/A
Tuesday	SMS Cello Lessons Ms James SMS Drum Lessons Mr Elliott SMS Violin & Viola Lessons Miss Gosling
Wednesday	Wider Opportunities - Y4 Strings Miss Gosling
Thursday	SMS Woodwind Ms Roe
Friday	SMS Keyboard & Guitars Mr Jones

Safer Internet Day



As part of our Online Safety work, children from Reception through to Year 6 participated in assemblies focused on the theme of **"Want to talk about it? - Making space for conversations about life online"**.

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>

Mr Bass

Charities

NSPCC Number Day

On Friday 3rd February we had a wonderful non-uniform day taking part in NSPCC's Number Day. Children across the school had lots of fun applying their Mathematical skills across a range of activities. We played number games and challenged ourselves with lots of problems. We even ate number blocks at lunchtime! We managed to raise a fantastic **£285.50** for the NSPCC so thank you for all your donations.

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The Fiver Challenge

The Year 6 class of 2021-22 raised £210.30, Miss Timothy has chosen the donations to go to Water Aid.

Earthquake Appeal

Our Non Uniform Day to raise money for the Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal will be rescheduled for after half term. Thank you to all of those families who have already made a donation.

Dogs near Playground Entrance

We continue to ask for support from our Parents/Carers to keep all dogs away from the path between school and the allotments at the start and end of the school day.

Not all of our children are comfortable around dogs and some children are particularly frightened and nervous around them. We hope everyone is able to support us in keeping this area free from dogs at all times. Thank you.

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 2022-23. 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.

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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 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 £2.30 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 wraparound 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.....

Enforced Closure of School: Friday 17th February 2023.

Thank you to all of our families for your support this morning. The decision to close school is never an easy one to make and is only ever taken when there is a significant health and safety risk.

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As you are aware, this morning there was no water or heating in school. From 7:45am onwards we were reviewing the latest information on Seven Trent's website. We also contacted Severn Trent directly and they were able to provide further information from the engineer on-site. We were informed that the burst pipe had been located but there was no timescale as to when this would be fixed and when the water supply would be fully returned to our school.

In a situation like this, we are under pressure to make a decision, based on the information we have available to us at the time, as to whether or not it is safe for our children and staff to open the school.

In consultation with the Senior Leadership Team and the Chair of Governors it was decided that, on the grounds of health and safety, it was unsafe to go ahead and open school.

Staff worked quickly to provide online learning and this was available on our website from 10:30am. We have also contacted Hams Hall and the coach company and are in the process of rebooking the Year 5 trip.

We are extremely sorry for the inconvenience that this has caused and would like to thank you for your understanding in this matter.

On behalf of everyone at George Fentham Endowed School, I would like to wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable half term holiday.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 27th February 2023.**

Mrs J Gaughan
Headteacher