

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 1 - SUMMER 2016**

May 2016

Term Dates	
SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	<u>2015/16</u>
Summer Term	Mon 11 April 2016 - Fri 27 May 2016 <i>May Day Bank Holiday Mon 2 May 2016</i>
Half Term	Mon 30 May 2016 - Fri 3 June 2016
	Mon 6 June 2016 - Fri 22 July 2016
	<u>Inset Days 2015/16:</u> Monday 6 June 2016
	<u>2016/2017</u>
Autumn Term	Mon 5 September 2016 - Fri 21 October 2016
Half Term	Mon 24 October - Fri 28 October 2016
	Mon 31 October - Fri 16 December 2016
Spring Term	Tue 3 January 2017 - Fri 17 February 2017
Half Term	Mon 20 February - Fri 24 February 2017
	Mon 27 February - Fri 7 April 2017
Summer Term	Mon 24 April 2017 - Fri 26 May 2017 <i>May Day Bank Holiday Mon 1 May 2017</i>
Half Term	Mon 29 May 2017 - Fri 2 June 2017
	Mon 5 June 2017 - Tue 25 July 2017
	<u>Inset Days 2016/2017:</u> Monday 5 September 2016 Friday 30 September 2016 Monday 3 October 2016 Friday 17 February 2017 Monday 5 June 2017

Dates for Diary

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Mon 23 May 1.30	Y4 to Strings Explosion Rehearsal - Warwick Arts Centre
Mon 23 May 7.00pm	Y4 Strings Explosion Concert
Wed 25 May	Y3 trip to Conkers
Thur 26 May 9.30-2.30pm	Y5/6 Tag Rugby Exiles Rugby Club
Fri 27 May am	Tennis Assembly
Sun 5 June 6.30pm	Y6 Confirmation Service with Bishop Anne
Thur 9 June 3.30pm	Y6 Parents Condover Meeting
Fri 10 June	Y5 Cricket Festival at Berkswell C.C
Tue 14 June	Nursery Trip to Umberslade Farm
Wed 15 June am	Tempest Class Photos
Mon 20 - Fri 24 June	Y5 Bikeability
Mon 20 - Fri 24 June	Y6 Residential to Condover Hall
Tue 21 June 6.30pm	Nursery 2016 Parents Evening
Tue 21 June 7.30pm	Reception 2016 Parents Evening
Tue 28 June am	Reception Theatre Trip - Warwick Arts Centre
Wed 29 June 2.40pm	Y4 Strings Assembly to Parents, Governors and Trust
Thur 30 June am	Year 1 AG & T Art Event at Knowle School

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Thur 30 June pm	Heart of England School Parents Meeting - Y7 September 2016
Fri 1 July am	Current Nursery to Reception - Story & playtime
Mon 4 July am	Duncan Assembly
Mon 4 July	Sports Day - am: EYFS & KS1 pm: KS2
Tue 5 July 11.15am	Y6 Leavers Service :St Martins-in-the Bull Ring
Wed 6 July 10.00-2.00pm	Y4 Cricket Festival at Berkswell CC
Thur 7 July 1.00to 2.00/2.15 to 3.15am	Nursery 2016 Open afternoon - 2 sessions
Thur 7 July 11.45am	Reception 2016 - Parents Invitation to Lunch
Mon 11 July	Sports Day - Reserve Date
Tue 12 July	Y6 Transition Day at Heart of England School
Tue 12 July am	Zoolab Ranger visit to Nursery
Wed 13 July pm	Year 2 INSPIRE Workshop
Wed 13 July pm	Open Evening
Fri 15 July am	Nursery Event for Parents
Mon 18 July am	Duncan Assembly
Fri 22 July am	Y6 Leavers Service at Church

Summer 1 2016 - Clubs

Day	Lunchtime	After-school
Monday		Football Club
Tuesday	Guitar Lessons	3.20.-4.05 KS2 Cricket/Rounders (Hampton Sports Club)
Wednesday	12.45-1.15 Years 1 & 2 Cricket & Rounders (Hampton Sports Club) Strings Lessons Spanish Lessons	3.20-4.45 Learning Curves
Thursday	12.30-1.00 Keyboard Lessons 12.45-1.15 Years 3 & 4 Tri-Golf Club	
Friday	12.50-1.15 KS2 Netball Club	3.20-4.20 YR Gymnastics & Dance Club

Assemblies

A reminder that we have now planned our Class Assemblies for the rest of this academic year. Please find the dates in the table below. On very rare occasions we may need to change dates but will ensure you are informed of this at the very earliest opportunity.

Year	Date
Reception	Tuesday 21 st June 2016 **new date**
1	Monday 23 rd May 2016
2	Friday 8 th July 2016
3	Fri 13 th May 2016
4	Fri 6 th May 2016 ** new date**
5	Mon 21 st March 2016
6	Wednesday 20 th July 2016
Y6 Leavers Service	Friday 22 nd July at Hampton Parish Church

Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome two new Lunchtime Supervisors to our team. Mrs Winter and Miss Rayner joined us earlier this term and have settled in quickly to support our children over the lunchtime sessions.

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Year 6 SATs

We would like to say how proud we are of our Year 6 children. They approached SATs Week in a calm and positive way and we know they all tried their absolute best. We look forward to the results at the beginning of July and these will be enclosed with your child's end-of-year report.

Year 6 Residential

Condover Hall

There will be a short meeting for Year 6 parents and children to confirm arrangements for the Year 6 residential trip on Thursday 9th June at 3.30pm in the Year 6 classroom.

School Visits and Events

Author Visit

On Friday 22nd April 2016 the author Barbara Spencer came to school to deliver workshops to every class in KS1 and KS2 on the themes of inspiration for writing and reading. We had a great morning immersing ourselves in her stories through acting, developing imagination, word play and poetry. The children had a wonderful day and their enthusiasm for developing their reading and writing was a joy to see.

Queen Elizabeth II 90th Birthday Celebration

Friday 13th May was a non-uniform day where children and staff were invited to dress in red, white and blue, in celebration of Queen Elizabeth II 90th Birthday. At lunchtime children participated in a "Great British Lunch" where they toasted the Queen with milkshake and sung the National Anthem. The children also made crowns to wear during lunch. Congratulations to all of the children who took part. Judging was incredibly difficult but eventually the winners were agreed as:

Crown Competition Winners

Class		
Nursery	Isaac	Eva
Reception	Samuel	Maggie
Year 1	Alex	Millie
Year 2	Toby	Bailey
Year 3	Hugo	Libbie
Year 4	Barny	Alana
Year 5	Jack	Ella
Year 6		Louise

Zelkova String Quartet Concert

On Sunday 15th May 2016 many of our parents and children enjoyed the fantastic opportunity to see and hear the Zelkova String Quartet perform at St Mary & St Bartholomew Church, in aid of the Cameron Grant Memorial Fund. This was followed by a small concert in school assembly on Monday 16th May 2016 where the children were treated to a range of music that was both incredible and inspiring. A huge thank you to all involved in making both events such a success, but especially to the musicians for giving up their time for such a worthy cause and inspiring the next generation of musicians at George Fentham School.

Nursery Inspire Workshop

Nursery parents were invited into school for an Inspire Workshop on Phonics on Friday 15th April. The morning began with a presentation on phonics teaching in school and supporting phonic development at home. The main focus, however, was the opportunity for parents to enjoy working with their own child on a variety of phonics activities in the classroom and outdoor area.

Year 1 Assembly

On Monday 23rd May, Year 1 took part in their class assembly. The theme was "Growing" and the children really rose to the occasion putting on a great performance. The assembly addressed a number of subjects including science and how plants grow and English with a focus on drama, speaking and listening and reciting a poem off by heart. Above all, the children shared a very special message - whilst it is good to know what

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we would like to be when we grow up, it is even more important to learn the lifelong skills that are needed for us to grow and blossom into wonderful adults!

Year 3 Class Assembly

On Friday 13th May, Year 3 presented their Class Assembly on the "Amazing Egyptians". The Assembly centred on the importance of the Nile to the Ancient Egyptians. During the year the children explored Ancient Egyptian life across the curriculum. In Art they produced fantastic cartouches, in DT they created sarcophagi to contain precious mummies and in English they retold the myth of Isis and Osiris. Underpinning their Ancient Egyptian adventure has been the development of learning or BLP skills. The children have enjoyed enquiring, making links and collaborating to gain an understanding of the past. Lots of effort and hard work went in to making the assembly such a special and informative performance. A special thanks to Mrs Phillpotts who worked tirelessly to ensure all children looked immaculate and well done to Mr Poole as it was his very first assembly at George Fentham School!

Year 3 Class Marvellous Maths (Conkers)

On Wednesday 25th May, Year 3 went on a special adventure to Conkers. Along with our very special helpers, the children had the chance to discover the fun side of maths. We worked hard to solve practical challenges which tested our collaboration skills. We had lots of fun improving our estimating and measuring skills which prepared us for our final challenge of problem solving using jugs of water.

Y4 Assembly

'A wonderful, informative assembly', 'WOW!', 'That was fantastic!' These were just some of the lovely comments after "Class 4's Excellent Adventure" in May. The children performed with passion and expression, were clearly enjoying themselves and demonstrated just how much they have learned. Romans, the Digestive System, BLP, SMSC, along with diary entries, empathetic accounts, artwork, singing and poetry were all part of this wonderful assembly for parents. Well done to everyone who helped bring it all together.

Year 4 Strings Explosion

Wow! What a performance! The children in Year 4 excelled themselves in their Strings Explosion concert recently, performing a range of music (alongside many other schools) for their parents/families at Warwick Arts Centre. In the 8 months they have been learning the children have embraced new skills, techniques and developed a wonderful attitude to music and instruments. We hope that many of them will continue this next year.

A big thank you to Miss Gosling and Mrs Claverly (Solihull Music Service Teachers) for their hard work in enabling the children to make such good progress, along with the Fentham Trustees and Governing Body for their on-going support in providing this fantastic opportunity.

Year 5 Biscuits

Year 5 had a tasty end to their design and technology unit on Monday 25th April, when they made the biscuits that they had spent several weeks planning and designing. The children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to make and sample their unique creations and they certainly looked delicious! Mrs Corfield would like to, once again, thank the parents who gave up their time to help and who made the morning such a great success.

Year 6 Vegetable Curry

On Wednesday 27th April, Year 6 were chefs for the day! As part of their design and technology, they made a vegetable curry, which was planned in groups, with the children developing their skills in peeling, chopping and preparing different vegetables. In the afternoon, they had a tasting session and the curries were all delicious! Hopefully, Year 6 children can now make this curry for their families at home.

Sports Updates

Year 6 Tag Rugby:

On Thursday 26th May 2016, Year 6 children took part in the Solihull Borough Tag Rugby Tournament at Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club. This was a fantastic day and our two teams did us proud! The "A" team got

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into the gold final and the "B" team got into the silver final. The children showed great sporting behaviour and were a real credit to our school.

Y5 "Chance to Shine" Cricket Festival: Revised Date: Friday 10 June 2016.

Further information, on all sporting events for the summer term, will be published in the **Summer Sports Newsletter at the end of this academic year.**

Requests for Leave of Absence

At George Fentham we continue to encourage excellent attendance by all children. We thought it might be useful to share with you an extract from the new attendance guidance issued to all Solihull schools. As you will see, 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**. 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 this matter.

"Due to changes in legislation the previous guidance issued by the Solihull MBC for Family Holiday request in term time issued in 2005 has been withdrawn. This Guidance reflects the current legislative framework for parents requesting a leave of absence.

*The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 have amended Regulation 7 of the 2006 Regulations to **prohibit the proprietor of a maintained school granting leave of absence to a pupil except where an application has been made in advance and the proprietor considers that there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.***

Procedure for requesting a planned absence

- **All leave of absence requests will be unauthorised unless the circumstances are exceptional.** A parent/carer should complete an absence request form (Appendix 1) and submit this to the school at least two weeks prior to the date required. School will respond to the request within two weeks. If school is aware of any language difficulties that may preclude a request form being completed appropriate support will be offered to the parent/carer.
- DFE guidelines make clear that leave of absence during term-time should be regarded as exceptional. An example that can be given is that during 2012 London Olympics all police leave was cancelled. As a result for that specific timeframe it was agreed that requests for leave for the children of Police officers affected by the cancellation of their leave would be treated as exceptional.
- If a parent/carer considers they require their child to have a leave of absences for exceptional circumstances they should complete the absence request form which can be obtained from the school office (Appendix 1). There is a requirement that parent/carers provide evidence of the exceptional circumstance and may be required to meet with the Head teacher .
- Where the head teacher is satisfied that there **are** exceptional circumstances to warrant the request of the leave of absence but has additional concerns such as the timing of the absence, the pupils attendance record, they may use the absence leave calculator (Appendix 4).
- If the Head teacher deems that the reasons for the request are exceptional and authorises the absences a letter confirming that the request has been authorised will be sent to the parent/carer (appendix 2 : model pro forma)
- If the Headteacher deems that the reasons are not exceptional and the leave of absence will not be authorised. A letter informing the parents of this decision for each child and warning of the legal implications of the absence been taken will be sent to each parent. The letter provided in this guidance (appendix 3) must be used.

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- *If once notified in writing of the decision to unauthorise the leave of absence, the absence is taken it will be marked as an unauthorised absence on the pupils register. If the trigger of 10 unauthorised absences (sessions) is met then the absences should be referred immediately to the Education Enforcement Team for consideration and could result in the issue of a fixed penalty notice."*

Supervision of Children at the start of the school day

May we remind you that parents are responsible for supervising their Nursery children on the small playground until the children enter school at 9.00am. We would ask that children are not allowed to climb the steps outside Base or run around unsupervised. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Nursery Car Park

The Nursery car park is for the use of Nursery parents only between the times of 8.30am and 9.30am. Parents of older children are asked to use the car park at Fentham Hall or the Church Hall and walk their children to school.

As always, we ask for your support in keeping all of our children and families safe on their journey to and from school. **May I remind you that the car park is not owned by George Fentham School but by the Fentham Trust. Any concerns should be addressed to Malcom James, via the Fentham Trust.**

Head Lice

We are aware that head lice can be a problem for people of all ages and not just children. It is vitally important, therefore, that you check your child's hair and scalp weekly. If you suspect infection with head lice we would ask that every possible measure is taken to treat your child immediately. Advice can be sought from a local pharmacist. Please inform the school that treatment has been carried out.

Whilst the prime responsibility for the identification, treatment and prevention of head lice is the responsibility of the parent, there may be occasions when head lice are suspected during the school day. In this situation our aim is to minimise any embarrassment or discomfort to your child and to reduce the risk of infection to other members of the school community. We will make all reasonable efforts to contact you directly and ask you to check your child's hair and take the necessary action. In addition we will send home a letter to all parents in the affected class asking them to be highly vigilant.

In the rare situation of resistant or complex cases, further advice from the school nurse will be sought.

Should you have any concerns regarding this matter please speak with your child's class teacher, a member of the office staff or Mrs Gaughan. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Contact Numbers and Medication

Please let the school office know if there are any changes to your contact telephone numbers. It can be very distressing for your child if he / she is taken ill and we are unable to contact you quickly. To enable the school office to administer and supervise use of medicines, inhalers, epi-pens etc a consent form **must** be completed. Please note it is your responsibility to ensure any medication left in school is in date.

Illness / Sickness

We continue to do all that we can to reduce the spread of illness and infections in school. The advice from the Solihull School Nurse Team, regarding sickness and diarrhoea, is that your child stays off school for at least **48 hours after** the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea and does not return to school until they are feeling fit and well along with eating and drinking normally.

Please inform the school office between **8.30 and 9.00am** if your child is unable to attend school as every absence must be accounted for and is carefully monitored. Messages can be left on the absence line at any time before this, please press **option 1**, ***clearly & slowly*** stating your child's name, class and the reason for absence.

Break-time Snacks

Please support our healthy snack time by sending in **pure, fresh or dried fruit and vegetables only**. Children have access to drinking fountains and water bottles during the day and are regularly encouraged and reminded to drink. Please encourage your child to do this and ensure that drinking bottles contain

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water only. Should you wish your child to have milk at break time details are available from the school office.

Use of Mobile Phones/Devices

Our "Use of Mobile Phone/Devices Policy" has been recently reviewed and updated by staff and governors. There is a copy on our website for your information. In order to keep our children safe we must insist that parents do not use their mobile phones/devices on school premises or when accompanying children on school outings. In the case of school productions, parents/careers are currently permitted to take photographs of their own children, in accordance with school protocols. We ask that these photographs are taken of your own children, for your own personal use and are not published on social networking sites.

SUNSHINE AND WARMER WEATHER

Children are regularly encouraged to drink water during the school day but this becomes even more important during the hot weather. Please ensure you send your child with a named water bottle each day. Please note only water is permitted in school. We would also ask that you send your child with a named sunhat. Suntan lotion must be applied BEFORE SCHOOL and should not be sent into school in your child's bag. If, in exceptional circumstances, you feel that suntan lotion needs to be applied during the school day please contact the school office as this will need to be done under adult supervision and consent forms will need completing. Thank you for your support in these matters.

And Finally.....

We hope you have a restful and enjoyable half term break and we very much look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 7th June 2016 at 8.55am.

Mrs J Gaughan
Head Teacher

School website: www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk