

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

May 2022



Term Dates	
<b>SCHOOL TERMS &amp; HOLIDAY DATES</b>	
	<u>2022</u>
<b>Summer Term</b>	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 - <b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022</b> - one day's holiday to be taken in place of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday on Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022 (the actual date of Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2022 is during the Summer half term holiday) <b>May Bank Holiday:</b> Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 - Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2022
<b>INSET DAYS</b>	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022</b>
	<u>2022/2023</u>
<b>Autumn Term</b>	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2022 - Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2022
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October - Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
<b>Spring Term</b>	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2023 - Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2023 - Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
<b>Summer Term</b>	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023 - Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 - Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023 <b>May Bank Holiday:</b> Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2023
<b>INSET DAYS</b>	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September, 4 more Inset Days to be advised in due course.

<b>Dates for Diary 2021-2022</b>
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**2022**

Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> June 4.00pm to 5.45pm	Y3 Quad Kids- Best of 8, Lode Heath School
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Nursery & Reception trip to Ash End House Farm
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Y3 Stone & Iron Age Workshop
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> June am	Tempest Photography - Individual Photographs
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> June 4.00 to 6.00pm	SSSP Girls Football Competition, Old Silhillians
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> June 6.00pm	Nursery 2022 Parents' Meeting
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> June 7.00pm	Reception 2022 Parents' Meeting
Tue 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Sports Day
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 6 Tag Rugby Competition
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Years 5 & 6 Borough Athletics
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> June pm	Year 4 Strings Showcase for Year 3
Thu 30 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Solihull MBC Secondary School Transition Days
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Year 4 trip to the Think Tank
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day - Reserve
Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Nursery & Reception "Animals in the Hand" visit
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4 Chance to Shine Cricket Festival - Berkswell CC
Thu 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5 Chance to Shine Cricket Festival - Berkswell CC
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> July	School Reports out

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Tue 12<sup>th</sup> July  
Wed 13<sup>th</sup> July pm  
Wed 13<sup>th</sup> - Fri 15<sup>th</sup> July  
Thu 21<sup>st</sup> July 10.00am

Year 2 Tri-Golf Festival  
Nursery 2022 Play & Stay sessions  
Year 6 Conover Hall Residential  
Year 6 Leavers' Service at Church

**Staffing Updates**

**Deputy Headteacher:** As you will be aware, Mrs Edmeades is leaving George Fentham Endowed School at the end of this academic year. We have now successfully appointed our new Deputy Headteacher. Mrs Bailey will be joining us in September and brings with her a wealth of leadership experience. She has already started preparing for September and is really looking forward to working with us.

**Maternity Leave:** Mrs Barratt will be leaving school at the end of next term to begin her maternity leave. We really look forward to meeting "Baby Barratt" in the autumn. We have successfully appointed an experienced Year 1 teacher, who will be working with Mrs Salmon in Year 1 from September.

**Vacancy - EYFS Teaching Assistant:** After 10 years at George Fentham, Mrs Holder will be leaving at the end of term. She has been a fantastic member of our Foundation Stage Team and we wish her all the very best in the future. We are currently advertising for a new EYFS Teaching Assistant to work in Nursery from September. Full details are available on [www.wmjobs.co.uk](http://www.wmjobs.co.uk) or via the school office. Please pass on the details if you know anyone who may be interested in this position.

**COVID - 19 Update**

Cases of COVID 19 have significantly reduced in school. As a result, we have been able to reintroduce many of our previous events and activities. We continue to keep the situation under review and would ask for your help and support in ensuring you notify us if your child is unwell. As always the safety and well-being of our children and staff remains our absolute priority.

**Class Events**

**Nursery:**

**Phonics 'Inspire' Workshop**

It was lovely to welcome parents/carers into school last month for our Phonics Workshop. This was an opportunity to find out about phonics, a vital skill for learning to read and write. We discussed the teaching of phonics in school and how to support children's development at home. However, the best part of the morning was, of course, working with the children on a selection of phonics activities in the classroom.

**Mrs Durkin**

**Reception:**

Our theme 'Oh I do like to be beside the seaside' has been lots of fun. We used the iPads and non-fiction books to learn about life under the sea. We have had important discussions about how we can be more responsible and take care of our beaches and animals, talking about recycling and finding out what we can do to protect our planet. Our role play area has been an ice-cream shop. The children have enjoyed creating fabulous sundaes and cones and then deciding how much they will cost. We were shocked when someone was charged £100! We have had lots of opportunities to be creative. We have painted beaches, collaged sea creatures, made our own boats and tested them in the water tray. We learnt about the explorer Christopher Columbus and thought about

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places we would like to explore. We can't believe we are heading towards our last half term in Reception together!

**Mrs Brown**

**Year 1:**

This half term seems to have flown by! We have been so busy and the children have all been brilliant. They work so hard in all their subjects and are producing some fantastic pieces of work. In History, we have been learning about old and new toys and what our parents and grandparents might have played with when they were little.

In Art, we have found out about Vincent Van Gogh and the wonderful flowers he painted. We have been inspired by his paintings to create our own pictures focusing on the different colours and shapes of flowers. This has also helped us in our Science lessons as we have been learning all about the structure of a plant and looking closely at the flower, stem, roots, and leaves. We have had lots of fun!

**Mrs Salmon and Mrs Barratt**

**Year 2:**

**Tri-Golf**

The children have undertaken 3 sessions of Tri-Golf coaching, with Aaron from Stonebridge Golf Club, this half term. In-between these sessions they have worked with Mr Bass on the skills and techniques learnt with Aaron, in readiness for a Tri-Golf Festival in July. At the festival, the children will compete in a range of games designed to test their chipping and putting ability, earning points individually and as a team. We have had great fun learning all the different techniques, games and safety rules (very important when clubs are being swung about) and can't wait for the festival.

**SATs (Secret Agent Tests)**

The children in Year 2 have been absolutely fabulous this half term as we have built up towards completing their SATs Tests - no fuss, no bother, just a can-do attitude and a smile! I am so proud of the way in which they have just carried on with these tests, especially the perseverance, resilience and support for one another that they have shown. A HUGE well done Year 2!

**Class Assembly**

Following close behind finishing their SATs, the children in Year 2 launched straight into rehearsing for their Class Assembly. After a few years without these wonderful showcases of the learning journey in each year group, it was lovely to welcome parents/carers back into school to watch Year 2. The children's hard work in learning lines and rehearsing the stage directions certainly paid off, with a fabulous performance which was enjoyed by all (even Mr Bass).

**Mr Bass**

**Year 3:**

Year 3 have taken a trip back to the Ancient Times in History. We have been exploring the very first humans in our Stone Age to the Iron Age unit. We have imagined the challenges of life as a Palaeolithic human and were challenged to design a Stone Age menu only using food that could have been hunted or gathered back then. We came up with some very creative meals! We also were amazed to discover that 'Doggerland' was not indeed a 'land for dogs' as was predicted, but a stretch of land that joined the UK to mainland Europe to enable our nomadic ancestors to travel by foot between the UK and Europe.

We continue to amaze our teachers with our swimming, our stamina is increasing, and we are working hard on keeping a streamlined position in the water. On our other PE day, we have been perfecting our forehand in tennis, we have some really brilliant tennis players in Year 3, well done all of you!

**Mrs Hodge**

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**Year 4:**

It's been a short but action-packed half-term in Year 4! We have been lucky enough to have cricket lessons on Monday afternoon with coaches from All-Star cricket. We are currently preparing for our tournament in July. Our cheer-leading sessions have now finished and the class put together an amazing routine which we were able to enter into another competition - the results are due in very soon on this but, regardless of what happens, Year 4 are our sports value and school value champions for their collaboration and the support they give each other throughout all of our lessons. We are racing through our set pieces in Music and the children are polishing up their performances for our class assembly next half-term. Alongside this, we have been performing and writing poetry, learning about the world, learning about the digestive system (I think everyone heard about Mrs Briggs' practical science lessons!) and being creative with pop-up books and moving pictures. I think Year 4 need a very restful half-term! Well done to you all for all your hard work.

**Mrs Brooker and Mrs Briggs**

**Year 5:**

Year 5 have had a fabulous half term! We started our History topic on the Anglo-Saxons and have used maps to demonstrate where in Europe the different clans such as the Angles, Saxons or Jutes travelled from and where they settled in Britain. The children enjoyed investigating different artefacts (and how different types of soil can help to preserve or erode them), and about the great discovery of Sutton Hoo, an Anglo-Saxon long ship with an important king buried within.

The children have really immersed themselves in our Art and Music topics, all about colour and emotions. In Music, the class have discovered that some people have a special gift called 'synaesthesia' which enables them to hear colours. The children explored the associations between music, sounds and colour, building up to composing and performing their own musical composition to represent Holi, the Hindu festival of colour. This has tied in beautifully with our Art topic of Mark Rothko where the children have asked questions about his work to develop their learning, studied his colour-field paintings and experimented themselves with blending colours to encapsulate an emotion of their own.

Our class caterpillars have also arrived and we are all very excited to be observing how they are changing and growing! Very well done on a busy and exciting half term's work Year 5.

**Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Kermode**

**Year 6:**

**Year 6 End of Key Stage 2 Tests**

We were extremely proud of all our Year 6 children during SATs week. They conducted themselves calmly and completed the tests conscientiously. Well done Year 6!

**Year 6 Tennis morning at Hampton Sports Club**

We had a super morning on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May to finish off our tennis unit in PE. It was great for the children to be able to play on full size courts with nets. Many thanks to Mrs Bradburn and Ian from Hampton Sports Club for facilitating this.

Year 6 have had a busy few weeks. We enjoyed a fantastic Commonwealth Games Workshop where the children took part in a variety of fun activities learning all about the wide range of multi-sport events and the counties taking part. In order to complete the energetic activities successfully, the children had to remember the names of Continents and interesting facts about individual countries.

Year 6 have also started their Tag Rugby training learning about tackling, defending, using space and the importance of agility. They demonstrated fantastic team work and sportsmanship. We look forward to continuing to develop our Tag Rugby skills ahead of our tournament in June.

**Mrs Edmeades and Miss Timothy**

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Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Further to our Jubilee Celebrations Letter, we held our Jubilee Celebration Assembly on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May. Each class had researched and focused on one of the decades. Year 6 began by sharing information on events from the 1950s and Reception children brought us completely up-to-date with the current Royal Family succession line and showcased their beautiful portraits of the Queen. There was so much to share that our Assembly lasted almost an hour and we finished by singing our new Jubilee song and the National Anthem. This work will be displayed in school next half term and we hope you will make a special effort to see it during our Open Evening planned in July.

Over lunchtime we celebrated with our Jubilee Picnic lunch. The hall was beautifully decorated and looked fabulous with all of the red, white and blue colours worn by the children.

Children enjoyed their "tour of London" as a result of reading "The Queen's Hat" by Steve Antony and we now have a school full of hats made for the Queen. We look forward to the author's visit later this year.





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Commonwealth Games

**Commonwealth Conga**

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April the whole school celebrated the Commonwealth Games coming to Birmingham with a Commonwealth Conga Baton Relay.

The school worked together to complete 11 conga laps of the playground to represent the 11 miles from Birmingham International to the stadium in Perry Barr which will be the last leg of the Queen's Baton Relay on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Each class chose a baton bearer, who best embodied the School Games Values and the value of friendship, to lead their conga lap. Congratulations to Lola, Akshay, Rosie, Olivia, Matilda, Polly and Edward. What an honour to be chosen by your peers! We are so proud of you.

Well done all, super smiles, super singing, super flag waving and superb conga!!!!



Mrs Bradburn

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**Other Sporting Events**

**Commonwealth Games Workshop - Bring the Power.**

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May, the children in KS1 and Year 6 took part in a 'Bring the Power' Workshop, the official learning partner of the Commonwealth Games. Each class took part in a range of activities to help them learn more about the Commonwealth Games. The children were actively engaged in learning about the different sports and the key historical events, as well as designing banners to show encouragement. Great fun was had by all.

Chloe Yr 2 - "It was exciting acting out the timeline events and my arm got really tired."

Oscar Yr 2 - "It was amazing learning about the Commonwealth Games."

Jack Yr 1 - "I really enjoyed finding out about when the Commonwealth Games started and all about the different sports."

Nevaeh Yr 1 - "I liked how we did lots of acting and learnt how the athletes have to work really hard."

**Playground Leaders & KS1 Speed Stacking**

It has been wonderful to see our Year 6 Playground leaders organising the KS1 and Reception Speed Stacking Competition at lunchtimes this half term. They have been doing a brilliant job teaching the little ones how to do a 3-3-3 speed stack and all of the children taking part have had a great time. The four fastest girls and four fastest boys will be entered into the Solihull Virtual Competition on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May, so good luck everyone!

**Chance to Shine**

On Mondays, Years 4 & 5 have begun their cricket coaching sessions with coaches from the Warwickshire Chance 2 Shine programme. It has been great to see their skills improving and their smiles beaming. This continues after half term in preparation for our tournaments in July. If parents can support the children with some throwing and catching practise over half term to help the children polish the skills they have learnt, that would be fabulous. Year 5 are also working on overarm bowling and keeping that arm straight is really proving tricky!

**Summer 1 2022 Clubs & Music Lessons**

Day	During the school day	After-school
Monday	3.20 - 4.30 pm	Jet Dance After School Club
Tuesday	Drum Lessons	KS2 Girls Football
Wednesday	Strings Lessons Wider Opportunities - Y4 Strings	
Thursday	Woodwind	3.20-4.20 pm Year 3 Sports Club
Friday	Keyboard & Guitars	3.20-4.20 pm Year 4 Sports Club

**After School Clubs**

**KS2 Girls Football Club.**

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May, George Fentham launched its first Girls Football Club. The Club takes place after school and is run by coaches from Sports Development UK. It continues until the 19<sup>th</sup> July and remaining places will be offered to boys after half term. Applications are now open. Please see Parent Pay emails for further information.

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**Year 3 & 4 Sports Clubs**

On Thursdays and Fridays Year 3 and 4 have attended a Summer Sports Club where they have been developing their tennis, athletics and cricket skills with coaches Natalie and Bel from Matchpoint Sportz. The children have been brilliant and really developed their skills. Well done. *This club finishes on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 for Year 3 and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May for Year 4.*

**KS2 Athletics Club - Thursdays Summer 2**

Next half term there will be an Athletics Club for children in KS2 who wish to take part in Borough Athletics. The coaches from Matchpoint Sportz will help the children develop a range of athletics skills in preparation for our regional competition. This is a whole day event on the 27<sup>th</sup> June. Look out for the letter on Parent Pay to gain your place.

**KS1 Summer Sports Club - Fridays Summer 2**

Next half term the Matchpoint Sportz coaches will be offering a Summer Sports Club to the children in Key Stage 1. This will focus on developing fundamental throwing, catching, jumping and running skills through activities linked to traditional summer sports such as athletics, rounders, cricket & tennis. Look out for the Parent Pay letter to apply for your child's place.

**Eco- Council**

At the end of spring term, our eco-councillors had been busy organising the collection of old or broken electrical toys for a 'Toy Amnesty'. These toys were part of an initiative organised by Solihull Zero Wasters and would be either recycled or broken down for parts to be reused. Solihull Zero Wasters had made this into a competition, with the school sending in the largest weight of broken toys being given a prize. We have now received the results from this Toy Amnesty. In total, thirteen schools within the Borough took part and a total of 109kg of broken electrical toys were received. The school sending in the largest amount was Blossomfield Infant School (27kg of broken toys), closely followed by Langley Primary School (18kg) and Monkspath Primary School (15kg). Although George Fentham School didn't win any prizes, we are still very proud of our efforts knowing that we have saved a number of items from simply being sent to landfill.

Our eco-councillors have continued to work hard this half term. We have concluded our project on glue-sticks, calculating that over the course of the year, our school would use close to a 1000 glue-sticks. As some of the glue-sticks we use are currently not recyclable, our eco-councillors have collectively written a letter to our favourite glue-stick manufacturer in which we gave suggestions for how their glue-sticks could be eco-friendlier. We look forward to receiving a response from this letter and will update you accordingly.

As it has been a little while since our Christmas eco-competition, our eco-councillors have been organising a joint Eco/Science competition that we would love all the children at George Fentham School to get involved with. Putting on our Eco/Science hats, we would like our school to take part in and celebrate the Great Science Share 2022. We have given lots of thought about how we can do this and are pleased to announce that further details of this competition will be emailed out on Parent Pay shortly.

**Mrs Briggs**



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**Class Assemblies - Summer Term**

Please check the dates of our Class Assemblies next half term. Further information will be sent out prior to your child's Assembly.

Class	Date
R	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> June has now been moved to Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2022, due to the availability of the dance coach.
1	Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> June
2	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May
3	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> July
4	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June pm
5	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> July
6	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July - Leavers' Assembly
6	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July - Church Service

**Behaviour Policy**

A huge thank you to the group of Parents who met with Mrs Morris to review and discuss our new draft Behaviour Policy. Feedback from Parents is extremely important to us and helps to inform our decision making process. We have already consulted with children, staff and Governors and next half term we will be launching our updated Policy. This will be available on our school website and further information will be sent out.

A huge thank you to Mrs Morris for all her hard work in leading this review.

**Dogs near Playground Entrance**

There has been a significant reduction in the number of dogs outside school at the start and end of the day. ***We would like to thank all of those Parents/Carers who have kept their dogs away from the path between school and the allotments.***

As highlighted in our previous letter, we have had a number of Parents/Carers raise concerns about unattended dogs, or dogs on leads obstructing the path into school. Some children are frightened and nervous of dogs and have been upset coming into school. We would like to ask for everyone's help in keeping this area free from dogs. Thank you.

**George Fentham got Talent**

Entries are now being received for George Fentham's got Talent, with auditions taking part after half term, we look forward to a variety of acts and performances. Good Luck to all who take part!!

**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.

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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.

**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 Health 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 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 holiday. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022. (Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June is an INSET day.)

**Mrs J Gaughan**  
Headteacher