

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 2 - AUTUMN 2015**

Autumn 2 - December 2015

Term Dates	
SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	<u>2015/16</u>
Autumn Term	Mon 2 November 2015 - Fri 18 December 2015
Spring Term	Mon 4 January 2016 - Friday 12 February 2016
Half Term	Mon 15 February - Friday 19 February 2016
	Mon 22 February - Wednesday 23 March 2016
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 4 January 2016, Fri 12 February 2016, Monday 6 June 2016

Dates for Diary	
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2015

Tue 8 December 1.45pm	KS2 Grandparents Performance - Dress Rehearsal
Tue 8 December 7.00pm	KS2 Evening Performance
Wed 9 December 1.45pm	KS2 Afternoon Performance
Fri 11 December 3.45pm	PTA Christmas Fair
Tue 15 December 9.30am	KS1/FKS Grandparents Performance - Dress Rehearsal
Tue 15 December 6.30pm	KS1 Evening Performance
Wed 16 December 9.30am	KS1/FKS Morning Performance
Thur 17 December am	Nursery & YR Christmas Party
Thur 17 December pm	YR Hearing Tests
Fri 18 December	Christmas Church Service

----**2016**----

Tue 2 February am	Year N "Little Red Hen" by Playhouse Theatre in School Hall
Wed 3 February am	YR Height & Weight Checks
Mon 29 February - Fri March	Health Week
Mon 29 February	Life Bus Day 1
Tue 1 March	Life Bus Day 2
Thur 3 March	Basketball League: Venue TBA
Tue 12 April am	Y5 Cricket Coaching starts
Mon 9 May - Fri 13 May	Y6 Assessment Week
Wed 18 May	Y5 Cricket Festival at Berkswell C.C
Wed 15 June am	Tempest Class Photos
Mon 20 - Fri 24 June	Y5 Bikeability
Mon 20 - Fri 24 June	Y6 Residential to Condover Hall
Wed 6 July	Y4 Cricket Festival at Berkswell CC

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Autumn 2 Clubs

Day	Lunchtime	After-school
Monday		3.20-4.20 Football Club
Tuesday	Guitar Lessons	3.20.-4.05 KS2 Basketball Club (Hampton Sports Club)
Wednesday	12.45-1.15 KS1 Multi-Skills Club (Hampton Sports Club) Strings Lessons Spanish Lessons	
Thursday	12.30-1.00 Keyboard Lessons	
Friday	12.50-1.15 KS2 Netball Club	3.20-4.45 Learning Curves Please note: This club will move to Wednesday from the Spring Term

Staffing Updates

STAFF LEAVING:

We are really sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Kelly who will be retiring at the end of term. Mrs Kelly has been at George Fentham for 8 years and has had a variety of roles. She has coordinated lunchtimes, run the library and worked in a variety of classes supporting individual children and small groups. In each of these roles Mrs Kelly has ensured the very best for our children. Who could forget Mrs Kelly's "George Fentham's Got Talent", the summer football tournaments and the fantastic Christmas lunches? In addition Mrs Kelly has been instrumental in ensuring Santa had a wonderful grotto at the Christmas Fair and that the scenery and costumes for the Christmas Performances were of the highest quality.

We will really miss Mrs Kelly in the future, but send her our love and best wishes as she leaves us for a fantastic new adventure!

NEW STAFF:

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Flint and Miss Enefer who are joining our team of Lunchtime Supervisors.

Healthy School's Award

We are really pleased to announce that we have been successful in our application to remain a 'Solihull Healthy School'. Through completing a comprehensive review of our provision, we have evidenced that our school has maintained its foundation for health and well-being, which was originally confirmed when National Healthy School status was achieved. This was externally validated by the Solihull Healthy Schools Quality Assurance Group (QuAG) who recognised our ongoing commitment to:

- **PSHE Education** including relationships and sex education (RSE) and drug, alcohol and tobacco education
- **Healthy Eating**
- **Physical Activity**
- **Emotional Health and Well-being** including anti-bullying, social and emotional aspects of learning (SEAL) and developing resilience

Congratulations to our children and staff for their hard work in these areas and a special thank you to Mrs Morris for coordinating our Healthy School's Award application.

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Your Feedback - Update from Governors

Thank you to all parents who took the time to complete our questionnaire in the summer. Governors reviewed the feedback carefully and I wanted to share our conclusions with you and actions taken since then. The feedback was very good and it was obvious that parents are very positive about the school, their children are happy at school and there were no issues raised. Where we saw some minor variation was on the question of homework. We find that some parents think there is too little and some too much. Governors consider and approve a policy in relation to homework periodically which tries to strike the right balance. I would encourage parents with any specific concerns to raise them with the class teacher or Mrs Gaughan.

Another area which stood out in the responses was the level of understanding of parents and carers in relation to the school's approach to bullying. This is a very rare occurrence and a matter that is always reported to governors. It was apparent from your responses that it may not be clear how the school tackles this area. In response to the feedback, the school used their annual Anti-Bullying week to share information with you and to encourage the children to talk with you about what they were covering in class. We hope you found this helpful. Further information is available on the school website.

Most importantly, I wanted to let you know that your feedback has been looked at carefully by governors and encourage you to take part in our next survey at the end of this school year.

I hope you all have a great Christmas and new year.

Chris Busby, Vice-Chair of Governors

"Say No to Bullying" Week

During the week of 16th to 20th November, George Fentham pupils took part in our annual Anti-Bullying Week in line with the national focus. This is a really important week, highlighting the key STOP message with the children - bullying is: **Several Times On Purpose** and the response is: **Start Telling Other People!** All the classes completed a variety of activities and discussions during the week, with very positive responses. Mrs Edmeades also followed this up with a discussion with our new School Council. Discussions showed just how much the children's understanding progresses as they move through the school. Thank you to all the children for such a positive week!

At George Fentham Endowed School we do not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour. Our aim is to deal quickly and effectively with any reported incident. Support is given to all children involved and the situation closely monitored. Bullying behaviour at our school is very rare, however, we are never complacent. Should you have any concerns please speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Gaughan at the earliest opportunity. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Thank you to all of our parents and carers who attended our Parent Consultation Evenings in November. As always, staff really value their discussions with you regarding how your child is progressing. Should you have any queries or concerns please feel free to see staff at the end of the day or contact the school office for an appointment.

Nursery and Reception 2016 Open Mornings

Foundation stage welcomed prospective parents into school for two open mornings in November. Both were well attended by families looking to apply for Nursery and Reception places for September 2016. Should you have any queries regarding applications, please contact Mrs Hansford via the school office.

Nursery Car Park

Once again we have received a number of complaints from parents and grandparents regarding inconsiderate parking, blocking in other cars and, when challenged, adults behaving in an aggressive and rude way. 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.

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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 complaints should be addressed to Malcom James, via the Fentham Trust.

School Visits and Events

NURSERY- POSTING LETTERS TO FATHER CHRISTMAS:

Once again Nursery children were made very welcome at the village Post Office when they walked through the village to buy a stamp and post their letters to Father Christmas earlier this month. On their walk, the children noticed features of the local environment and crossed Fentham Road carefully, remembering to look and listen for traffic.

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE PARTY:

The 60 children in Foundation stage enjoyed a lively party during the last week of term, playing traditional games such as musical bumps as well as showcasing their fabulous dancing skills! After a delicious party snack, the event was rounded off by a surprise visit from Father Christmas. Nursery children serenaded him with the song they performed as elves in the Christmas play.

YEAR 2:

As part of their history topic on Elizabethan and Victorian England, Year 2 have been comparing Christmas traditions from these two periods of history. They used two poems, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and "Twas the Night before Christmas" as an English link to support this topic.

On the 4th December, Year 2 went to St John's Museum in Warwick where the children were welcomed into the hall to discover a Victorian Christmas in full swing! They learnt about the arrival of Christmas trees in England and looked at the decorations on the tree. The children looked at the type of presents that would have been given on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. They also went carol singing and helped to make a Christmas pudding. To their surprise they also spent an hour in a Victorian schoolroom with Mrs Archer, the patron of the school, who came to inspect the standard of work. It's an experience that they won't ever forget!

Then Year 2 children went to Blakesley Hall on December 9th where they were met by Mistress Joan Smallbroke who lived in the hall in Elizabethan times. The hall was decorated for the family's Christmas and Twelfth Night celebrations. The children participated in dragging in the Yule Log, parading the Boar's Head, stirring the plum pudding and putting out food for the fairies. The morning was finished off with an Elizabethan dance and playing games.

When the children returned to school after the trips, they made Elizabethan and Victorian decorations for the classroom - it looks wonderful in Year 2! The children were, as always, a real credit to the school and it has been a real joy to watch them being so absorbed in their learning.

YEAR 3 Visit to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery:

On Wednesday 4th November, Year 3 visited Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery for an Ancient Egypt "Discovery Day." They enjoyed finding out about the mesmerizing mummification process. This involved preparing a very patient mummy for the afterlife. We would like to thank our very special helpers who made it such a memorable day for Year 3.

YEAR 4 "Sparks" Fire Safety:

Year 4 were fortunate enough to have a visit from Solihull Fire Station's Blue Watch this half term. The focus of their visit was to highlight the importance of Fire Safety in the home and the local environment, as part of their "SPARKS" initiative. A session in the classroom looked at the possible dangers around the home, the effects of a fire (and the speed it spreads), the importance of smoke detectors and the implications of hoax calls. This was followed by a fantastic opportunity to climb on board the Fire Engine, look through infra-red goggles, discuss the variety of equipment and view the hosepipes.

A huge thank you to the Fire-fighters for taking the time to come and see us. A great time was had by all.

YEAR 6 Coventry Cathedral:

On Friday 13th November, Year 6 went to Coventry Cathedral for a Blitz Living History day. We met several characters from 1940 who shared their experiences of living through the Coventry Blitz, as well as

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looking round the ruins of the original cathedral. It was a very interesting and thought-provoking day. The children showed great sensitivity in their questioning and were beautifully behaved.

YEAR 6 Lunch Club:

On Wednesday 18th November, Year 6 pupils went up to Fentham Hall to interview members of the Hampton Lunch Club about their memories of World War 2. We heard some fascinating stories which really brought our topic on the World Wars to life. Thank you so much to the Lunch Club for their warm welcome.

YEAR 6 The Nutcracker:

On Friday 27th November, Year 6 accompanied Hampton Lunch Club members to the Hippodrome to watch the Birmingham Royal Ballet's Nutcracker. It was a magical afternoon, thoroughly enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the Fentham Trust for funding this lovely occasion.

2015-2016 School Council Elections

A big thank you to all those children who took part in voting in the most eagerly anticipated election of the year! We now have 14 new councilors who will be proudly representing their classes over the rest of the year. Congratulations to the following newly elected councilors:

Year	Councillors
R	James & Mia
1	Karan & Darcey
2	Ben & Darcey
3	Keshav & Kajsa
4	Monty & Holly
5	Jacob & Hana
6	Adam S & Mia

Sports Newsletter Autumn 2015

[Our Sports Newsletter is now available on our school website.](#)

[A huge thank you to Mrs Nicholson for her hard work in producing this update.](#)

Marie Curie Assembly

On Friday 6th November, Amy from the Solihull Marie Curie Hospice came in to present George Fentham Endowed School with a certificate for a fantastic £316.00. This was raised from our "Rainbow Day" in the summer term, when we all wore brightly coloured clothes in memory of our much-loved and sadly missed member of staff - Mrs Fairclough. Thank you all for your kind donations.

British Legion Poppies

During the week commencing 2nd November, Year 6 children supervised separate collections for poppies, raising £40.55 and stationary raising £247.65. We have received a letter from the British Legion, to say a huge thank you for our brilliant donation of £288.20 to this year's Poppy Appeal.

We would also like to say a big thank you to Rev Duncan Ballard for leading our Remembrance Assembly in school.

Book Fair

At George Fentham Endowed School, we believe that every child should be a confident and enthusiastic reader, so our Book Fairs are an important part of our commitment to reading. The autumn term book fair was very well attended by parents and children - thank you very much for your continued support. We hope you and your child have enjoyed sharing your new books. A total of £422.09 worth of books was sold, enabling the school to choose £193 of free books, shared across all classes.

Children in Need

On Friday 13th November we held a non-uniform day for Children in Need. Children wore their own colourful clothes and Pudsey merchandise, raising a total of **£244.00**. Thank you for your support.

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Christmas Lunch

On Friday 11th December children, staff and governors (past & present) enjoyed Christmas lunch. Well done to Mrs James, our catering team, Mrs Kelly and our lunch-time supervisors who superbly dressed the tables, cooked and served 225 Christmas lunches. Winning prizes were given to children who had designed and made their own Christmas hats for the festive occasion.

Nursery 2016 & Reception 2016 Admissions

A reminder from the Solihull Schools Admissions Team: The closing date for Nursery 2016 applications is **Friday 18th December 2015** and Reception 2016 is **Friday 15th January 2016**. Applications should be made online at www.solihull.gov.uk/enrol For Reception applications, parents must apply to the local authority that they live within. If you have any queries please contact them on 0121 704 6693.

Changes to School Admissions Policies 2017/18

Please be aware there are changes to the Nursery and Reception Admissions Policies for 2017/18, the formal consultation period is from 20th December 2015 to 31st December 2015. Further information can be found on the school website: www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk

Food Allergens

Please be aware that the menus supplied by Solihull Catering Service, are now clearly labelled with allergens. New EU directives regarding allergen information came into force in December 2014 and affects all catering and food service establishments preparing open food for consumption. If you have any questions about the menus or you would like to discuss your child's dietary requirements / allergens please contact the school office to arrange a meeting with the School Cook.

IMPORTANT - Allergies

There are several children in school who have a severe reaction to nuts either by eating them or being in close proximity to nut products. We would ask for your help and support ***by avoiding sending any food items containing nuts into school.*** Thank you.

Please note: Any class treats supplied by parents will be given out at the end of the school day for children to eat under the direct supervision of their own parent.

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

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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.

Attendance

Thank you to all of our parents who ensure that their children attend school regularly. As you are aware, all parents are required to complete a leave of absent form prior to taking their child out of school. From September 2013 it became unlawful for pupils to be granted holiday from school during term time and as such Head Teachers are unable to give permission. In very rare circumstances, Head Teachers can consider requests made by parents in advance for a Leave of Absence in circumstances, which would not usually include holidays. Should you believe your request would fall into this very rare category of exceptional circumstances you will need to make a request for Leave of Absence, in writing to the Head Teacher. This form can be collected directly from the school office.

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 school register. If the trigger of 10 unauthorised sessions (5 days) is met, then the absence will be referred to the Educational Welfare Service for consideration and could result in the issue of a fixed penalty notice.

In cases where unauthorised absence is accrued over time, a warning letter will be issued by the Education Welfare Service prior to a penalty notice. The trigger for a warning letter will be at least 10 sessions of unauthorised absences. A penalty notice may be issued subsequent to a warning letter if there are a further five or more unauthorised absences.

Please note that when the decision is made to unauthorise an absence, we are required to write to each parent. If the unauthorised absence involves more than one child within the family a separate letter must be sent to parents for each child.

Should you have any queries regarding this process please do not hesitate in contacting the school office.

REMINDER: School Closure

For your information: if a decision is made to close George Fentham School due to bad weather conditions, the closure will be announced on the Solihull Council Website (www.solihull.gov.uk) and also read out on BRMB, WM and Heart FM radio.

In addition, we will aim to update our website to inform you of any closures as quickly as possible.

And Finally.....



On behalf of the children, staff and governors at George Fentham Endowed School I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We very much look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 5th January 2016.

Mrs J Gaughan
Head Teacher

School website: www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk