

GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 2 AUTUMN 2017



Autumn 2: December 2017

Term Dates	
SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	<u>2017/2018</u>
Autumn Term	Mon 30 October 2017 -Tuesday 19 December 2017
Spring Term	Wed 3 January 2018 - Fri 16 February 2018
Half Term	Mon 19 February 2018 - Fri 23 February 2018
	Mon 26 February 2018 - Thur 29 March 2018
Summer Term	Mon 16 April 2018 - Fri 25 May 2018 <i>May Day Bank Holiday Mon 7 May 2018</i>
Half Term	Mon 28 May 2018 - Fri 1 June 2018
	Mon 4 June 2018 - Tue 24 July 2018
	Remaining Inset Days 2017/18 : <i>Fri 16 Feb 2018 & Mon 4 June 2018</i>

Dates for Diary Spring & Summer 2018

Mon 8 January pm	Year 5 Young Voices Concert at The Genting Arena
Tue 9 January	Reception Relax Kids commences
Wed 10 January	Learning Curves recommences
Mon 15 January pm	Y5 Indoor Athletics commences
Tue 16 January 4.00-5.30pm	Basketball League (2) at St Peters School
Wed 17 January am	Reception Health Checks
Thur 1 February am	NSPCC/Childline Assemblies and Workshops
Mon 5 February	Year 4 Roman Tours Visitor to school
Thu 8 February	Year 6 & Seniors - Ballet: Cinderella
Mon 12 February pm	PTFA Pancake Disco
Wed 14 February am	Nursery - Playhouse Theatre Production
Mon 5 - Fri 9 March	Health Week
Mon 5 & Tue 6 March	Lifebus
Fri 9 March	Year 5 Rainforest Man visit
Thur 15 March	Year 4 to visit Chedworth Roman Villa
Sat 17 March	PTFA Barn Dance
Tue 20 March 4.00-5.30pm	Basketball League (3) at Alderbrook School
Tue 17 April am	Reception Hearing Tests***REVISED DATE***(from 11/12/17)
Tue 17 April am	Year 4 Cricket coaching starts
Mon 14 -Thur 17 May	KS2 Assessment Week
Tue 15 May	Year 5 Cricket coaching starts
Wed 23 May	Tempest Photography Class Photos
Mon 18- Fri 22 June	Year 5 Bikeability

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Mon 18- Fri 22 June
Wed 27 June
Thur 28 June

Year 6 Residential at Condover Hall
Year 4 Chance to Shine Cricket Festival
Year 5 Chance to Shine Cricket Festival

Staffing Update

This term we are saying goodbye to one of our Lunchtime Supervisors, Mrs Stevens. We would like to thank her for her work at George Fentham Endowed School and we send her our very best wishes.

Christmas & Christmas Performances 2017

A huge thank you to all of our children and staff for their hard work in presenting our Nursery, Reception & KS1 Performance "Born in a Barn" and KS2 Performance "Scrooge (A Ghost of a Chance)". Despite the snow, we were still able to complete all six performances. Thank you for your support regarding our ticketing system, which enables us to ensure the safety of all children and visitors on-site.

This year our audience totals were:

- **KS2 Performance: "Scrooge (a Ghost of a Chance)" - 280 Visitors**
- **Nursery, Reception & KS1 Christmas Performance: "Born in a Barn" - 307 Visitors**
- **School Audiences - 235 Pupils & Staff**

Christmas Lunch & Christmas Hat Competition

On Friday 8th December children, staff and Governors all enjoyed our Christmas lunch together. A huge thank you to Mrs James, her assistants and our team of Lunchtime Supervisors for all of their hard work. As in previous years, children were invited to take part in our Christmas hat competition.

This year there were some amazing hats and we loved seeing them all. As usual it was very difficult to choose winners, but after much consideration the following winners were chosen.

Boys	Girls
Robert	-
Lucas	Frankie
Clark	Saffron
Connor	Bea
Oliver	Natasha
Gabriel	Molly
Murray	Amy
Ryan	Scarlett

Well done to all those children who took part!

A Message from the PTFA

This term we have really focused on having a magical Christmas fair, with new stalls like 'Love a Bear' and 'The Pig Sty'. Next term we will be organising a School Pancake disco (12th February) and Barn Dance (17th March) and a Treasure Hunt in April. **PLEASE SAVE THE DATES.** We'd also like to thank John, Donna and Denise who are now stepping down from the PTFA after their many years of service. For further PTFA information please contact nfpickering@googlemail.com

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PTFA Logo Competition

Our new School Council's first meeting was to judge the final of the PTFA Logo Competition. The children looked carefully at 11 anonymous short-listed entries and judged their favourites. The results were displayed at the PTFA Christmas Fair on Friday 15th December. We look forward to the winning logo being used for all PTFA communication from next term.

Congratulations to:

- 1st Place - Annabelle Y6
- Joint 2nd Place - Beatrice Y2 & Ben Y4
- 3rd Place - Sarah Y6

Christmas Fair - Thank You!

Over the last month it has been a real pleasure to work with a small group of parents, led by Mrs Cloke and Miss Sanders, who have all worked so hard to organise this year's Christmas Fair. We would also like to thank all of our fabulous volunteers, both parents and staff, for their help setting up and running stalls on the day. We have received some lovely feedback saying how much everyone enjoyed the wide variety of games and stalls and we look forward to announcing the final total raised next term.

School and Sports Events

Hampton Arts & Crafts Festival

As a school, we have once again taken part in the Hampton-in-Arden Arts and Craft Exhibition, 2017. Every child from each year group, Nursery to Year 6, produced a piece of art work based upon a particular learning theme current to their class. Two pieces from each class were then chosen to be displayed at Fentham Hall during the first weekend of the October half term.

This year the children, whose entries were displayed, were awarded a special bookmark which depicted two icons painted and created by Canon John De Witt. They were of St Mary and St Bartholomew and both original paintings can be seen in St Mary and St Bartholomew Church.

This is always a wonderful opportunity for the school to participate in and for the children to have their work displayed, outside of school, for the local community to see.

Christmas Chronicle Cover Competition

This year the theme for the 'Christmas Chronicle Cover Competition' was 'Bearing Gifts'. The competition was open to the whole school and many entries from each class were gathered. Judging took place from members of the Church, including our new vicar Reverend Stuart, and teachers from the school. The process was extremely difficult as the standard from everyone was so high. In the end decisions were made and the front cover winner was Holly in Year 6. Runners up from each class were Joe in Reception, Leo H in Year 1, Oliver in Year 3, Raphaele in Year 4 and Freya R in Year 5. We also chose two highly commended pieces and certificates were awarded to Isaac in Year 4 and Gabriel in Year 5. Well done to everyone!

Travelling Book Fair

Thank you for supporting George Fentham School at the Book Fair which ran from Tuesday 7th to Monday 13th November 2017. A total of £368.00 was raised which enabled us to purchase books, for the classrooms, to the value of £160.

Nursery - Posting Letters to Father Christmas

Snowflakes were falling as the Nursery children walked to the village Post Office to buy a stamp, making the trip to post letters to Father Christmas really exciting earlier this month. On their walk, the children noticed features of the local environment and crossed Fentham Road

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carefully, remembering to look and listen for traffic. They were very interested in the range of items for sale in the Post Office and Tariq and Adam made everyone welcome.

Nursery - Relax Kids

This half term the Nursery children have enjoyed yoga sessions with Alison from Relax Kids. They practised bending and stretching their bodies and controlling their breathing. We also considered what we can do to keep calm when we are worried or angry.

Foundation Stage Christmas Party

All of the children in Foundation Stage enjoyed a lively party after our final Nativity performance, playing traditional games and enjoying a party snack. The event was rounded off with a surprise visit from Father Christmas.

Y1 Tour of Hampton in Arden

On Wednesday 8th November Year 1 went on a walk around the village. We began our trip with a visit to St Mary and St Bartholomew's Church, where we were welcomed by Reverend Anne Hinks. Anne taught us about the key features of a Christian Church and explained what the altar, font, lectern and pulpit are used for. Some lucky children even got to try on the Vicar's robes. Next we walked sensibly along the High Street. We looked at all the different types of houses and buildings around our school. Finally we arrived at the arboretum. We had great fun finding and collecting all the beautiful autumn leaves, then making pictures inspired by Andy Goldsworthy. The children were beautifully behaved, asked lots of interesting questions and produced some wonderful pictures.

Y3 Birmingham Museum

This half-term, Class 3 have continued to research their topic on the Ancient Egyptians. The children attended their first class trip of the school year, visiting the Birmingham Museum, where they handled Ancient Egyptian artefacts over 5000 years old - a momentous occasion for all. The children also learnt all about the mummification process and became embalmers, preparing a pharaoh puppet for its onward journey to the puppet afterlife. The experience was enjoyed so much that the children wanted to continue their learning on mummification back in the classroom. They designed and conducted their own science experiments to investigate the effect of mummifying fruit. Class 3 have thoroughly enjoyed this topic.

Y4 Cheerleading Festival

Year 4 has had a fantastic time this term working with a cheerleading coach. The children worked hard on a routine which combined lots of energetic new skills and involved an exacting degree of balance, timing, athleticism and teamwork. This industry culminated in a competitive festival, held at Lode Heath School, which brought together a dozen local primary schools, all keen to be crowned champions. We had wonderful support from parents, family and friends (not to mention George, our bear...) and this visibly buoyed - up our team, enabling them to perform a superb routine with commitment, energy and zest. Our boys and girls won third joint place, with Molly Hillman being named as most helpful and collaborative team member. As a school we are massively proud of them all.

Y4 Symphony Hall

On Thursday 16th November, Class 4 visited Symphony Hall in Birmingham for a Science of Sound Workshop. The session started with a performance on the magnificent organ played by the organ scholar at Symphony Hall. This served as an introduction to the children about high and low pitch, how sound is produced, volume (introducing Herz as a measurement), vibrations

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and different timbres. The lady running the workshop was engaging and fun, with many practical activities including a demonstration of what a sound wave would look like by using a slinky! The children were beautifully behaved and Mrs Kermode was very impressed by their maturity and interest in the workshop. Well done Class 4!

Y4 Sparks Fire Brigade

Solihull Fire Brigade, Blue Watch, visited Year 4 on Thursday 16th November. The children were told about fire safety in the home, how to keep safe if a fire breaks out and the importance of sitting down as a family and working out an escape route. It was stressed that fire detectors should be regularly tested. The children discussed how hoax calls caused delays and inconvenience but we were reassured by the Fire Brigade that most 999 calls in Solihull are responded to in under 5 minutes.

Y5 Greek Visitor

On Thursday 9th November, Year 5 had an excellent day with our Greek visitor, Alexis. The children were beautifully behaved and listened well. Our visitor provided a series of activities for the children to participate in ranging from an Archimedes puzzle, a quiz where the children had to find out the information themselves by reading facts and answering the questions, a traditional Greek board game called Petteia, followed by training as a Hoplite warrior during the afternoon. The children enjoyed handling the spears and getting into a traditional fighting formation. Our visitor was very complimentary about the children's prior knowledge and their engagement in all of the activities.

Year 5 & 6 Football Coaching

This term, Year 5 & 6 children have had football coaching from West Bromwich Albion Football Club. Our coach, Paul, has focused on core skills as well as giving the children the opportunity to play in small-sided competitive games. The children have thoroughly enjoyed these sessions.

Football Club

Children from Years 5 and 6 have made great progress this term in developing their skills and teamwork. A group of children recently took part in two matches, the first against Mill Lodge which they won 4 - 2 and the second against Lady K which was a narrow 4 - 3 loss. All of the children performed brilliantly and Mr Bass was so proud of their effort and resilience. We look forward to beginning again in the New Year and to future matches.

Basketball Club & League

The Basketball Team played extremely well against very stiff opposition in the tournament on Tuesday 5th December, managing to win one of the matches! Most of the opposing teams had far greater experience and significantly larger teams. All the players must be commended for their hard work and commitment; we were incredibly impressed with their perseverance and great sportsmanship. The team was a credit to George Fentham School.

Year 6 HSBC Bank Fraud Presentation

On Wednesday 8th November, Mrs Lowe and her colleagues from HSBC Bank came in to Year 6 to give a presentation on fraud. Their presentation covered bank card and cheque security, as well as online safety and identifying potentially fraudulent texts and emails. Our Year 6s were "guinea pigs" for this presentation, which will now be rolled out nationwide, and our children and staff were asked to feedback ideas for its future development. Many thanks to Mrs Lowe and her team for such a useful, interesting and informative session.

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Year 6 Lunch Club Visit

On Wednesday 15th November, Year 6 went to the Fentham Lunch Club to talk to some of the senior members of the village about their memories of WW2. The children were fascinated by the wealth of information and artefacts shared with them. Many thanks to the Lunch Club for their warm welcome!

Year 6 Visit to Coventry Cathedral

On Tuesday 28th November, Year 6 visited Coventry Cathedral as part of our local history research on WW2. We had the opportunity to look around the museum, finding out more about life in 1940 and the actual events of the night of 14th November 1940, as well as exploring the Cathedrals, both old and new. The children thoroughly enjoyed finding out about what happened to Coventry and were beautifully behaved.

Junior Choir/Touchwood

On Thursday 14th November, children from the Junior Choir took part in the Choir Competition at Touchwood Shopping Centre, singing their favourite carols to a fabulous audience of parents, friends and staff. Mrs Kermode was so proud of all the children who sang brilliantly, including solos from a number of courageous children. Congratulations to all children for their continued hard work and enthusiasm, and for singing beautifully at the Christmas fair too. Thank you for starting Christmas with a bang!

The prize for the winning school is £1000 towards a school project. Voting is online via the Touchwood website <https://touchwoodsolihull.co.uk/whats-new/school-choir-competition>. Please encourage your friends, family, colleagues etc. to vote for our fantastic choir at George Fentham too - thank you!

School Council and Online Safety Committee Elections

All children had the opportunity to vote as part of the School Council and Online Safety Committee elections.

Congratulations to our elected representatives for each year group. They are already looking forward to working on key areas for school improvement over the remainder of the school year.

Parent Consultation Evenings Year 1-6

Thank you to all of our parents who attended Parent Consultation Evenings earlier this half term. This is always a great opportunity to find out more about how your child is doing. We will be holding further Parent Consultation Evenings in the spring term, but please remember you are always welcome to contact your child's class teacher should you have any queries or concerns.

National Anti-Bullying Week, Monday 13th - Friday 17th November 2017

At George Fentham we say "NO!" to Bullying

During the week of 13th to 17th 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!**

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

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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 directly to your child's class teacher or Mrs Gaughan at the earliest opportunity. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Spring 1 Clubs

Day	Lunchtime	After-school
Monday	Guitar Lessons Keyboard Lessons 12.15-1.15 Games Club on Playground	<i>Please note, due to the dark evenings Football Club will not resume until February 2018.</i>
Tuesday	Cello Lessons	3.20-4.20 KS2 Sports Club - Basketball/Multi Sports
Wednesday	12.45-1.15 KS1 Sports Club - Multi Sports Strings Lessons	3.20-4.45 Learning Curves
Thursday	12.15-1.15 Games Club on Playground 12.45 - 1.15 Y1 & 2 Tri-golf	3.20-4.20 KS2 Gymnastics Club
Friday	12.15-1.15 Games Club on Playground 12.45 - 1.15 KS2 Tri-golf	3.20-4.20 Y4,5 & 6 Netball Club

Charities

St Basil's Refuge

Thank you for your tins and groceries collected for the Harvest Assembly on 6th November 2017. Four full large boxes were distributed between two St Basil's Homeless Projects in the Solihull area: St Basil's Turnaround Project at Chelmsley Wood and Mildenhall House. Your donations were greatly appreciated by St Basil's.

British Legion Poppy Appeal & Assembly

British Legion have advised school the amount collected for the sale of poppies and related stationary during early November was **£355.38**. This is a fantastic amount of money collected and will help the British Legion continue with their vital welfare and benevolent work. Thank you.

BBC Children in Need

Friday 17th November 2017 was a non-uniform day in support of the Children in Need Appeal; children wore spots and Pudsey Bear attire for the "Spotacular" theme. A total of **£248.50** was raised, thank you.

Malawi Children's Clothing Appeal

Between 20th & 24th November unwanted school uniform and children's clothing were collected at the school office, there was a fantastic response, bags galore! Thank you. The clothes will be sorted and sent to Malawi in a container next year where they will be very much appreciated by the children out there.

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Nursery and Reception 2018 Open Mornings

Prospective parents were invited to visit school during two open mornings in October. Both were well attended by families looking to apply for Nursery and Reception places for next September. Please be aware the closing date for Reception for September 2018 is **Thursday 15th March 2018**.

Medicines in School

May we remind you that a medicine permission form must be completed and discussed with a member of the office staff if your child requires any medicine during the school day. It is extremely important that all medicine has the prescription label clearly displayed on the medicine, stating your child's name, dose and frequency. If this information is displayed on packaging, we will need this packaging to be supplied. This arrangement will also apply for Calpol, therefore, if your child requires Calpol during the school day the bottle must have a prescription label with the above details.

Should you wish to discuss this in any further detail, please contact the school office.

School Uniform Reminder

Uniform	Boys	Girls
Trousers	Plain grey trousers	Plain grey trousers
Skirt		Plain grey skirt
Early Years, Key Stage 1: Polo Shirt	Maroon logo polo shirt	Maroon logo polo shirt
Key Stage 2: Shirt & tie	White shirt Maroon school tie	White shirt Maroon school tie
Dress		Summer red and white gingham summer dress
School Shoes	Black shoes no trainers	Black shoes no boots, high heels or trainers
Socks / Tights	Grey	Grey or white tights or socks
Sweatshirt/ Cardigan	V-neck maroon logo sweatshirt	V-neck maroon logo sweatshirt or cardigan
PE Kit	Black shorts White tee shirt	Black shorts White tee shirt
Games Kit	Dark plain tracksuit or jogging bottoms (in cold weather) Trainers	Dark plain tracksuit or jogging bottoms (in cold weather) Trainers
Hair Accessories		Ribbons, slides, hair bands etc should be black, white or red and kept to a minimum.
*Jewellery	On the grounds of safety, NO jewellery other than plain wristwatches, medical alert pendants or bracelets and earring studs.	On the grounds of safety, NO jewellery other than plain wristwatches, medical alert pendants or bracelets and earring studs.

Please note all uniform should be clearly named.

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*Jewellery must be removed or covered during all P.E. and Games activities in accordance with Health and Safety guidelines. Please send plasters into school for covering earrings if required. Hair should be kept neat and tidy at all times and tied back if possible. Whilst we appreciate the individuality of our children we ask that there are no extreme hairstyles in school.

Uniform may be purchased from:

PALMERS 1640 HIGH STREET, KNOWLE. B93 0NA

TELEPHONE NUMBER; 01564 776590

Book bags may be purchased from the school office at £8.00 each.

School Meals - Outstanding Debt

Parents of children in KS2

Due to the flexibility of the ParentPay system allowing parents to choose which days they wish their child to have a school meal, it is important to keep your account in credit; reminders are generated daily for children who have no credit on their accounts. Please note that if a debt exceeds one week's school lunches of £10.25 (£2.05 per day) a hot meal cannot be provided until the debt is cleared and the account is in credit.

Please contact the school office if you think your child may be eligible for free school meals.

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 are continuing to work with Central School Attendance and Welfare Service Ltd (CSAWS). 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, in line with the Local Authority Solihull Attendance Policy, 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.

Medical, Dental & Optician Appointments

Following advice from CSAW, 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.

And finally.....

On behalf of all of the children and staff at George Fentham Endowed School, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going support and to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday 3rd January 2018.

**Mrs J Gaughan
Head Teacher**