

GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 2 AUTUMN 2019

December 2019



| Term Dates | |
|---|---|
| SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES | <u>2019/2020</u> |
| Spring Term | Mon 6 January 2020 - Fri 14 February 2020 |
| Half Term | Mon 17 February 2020 - Fri 21 February 2020 |
| | Mon 24 February 2020 - Fri 3 April 2020 |
| Summer Term | Mon 20 April 2020 - Fri 22 May 2020 May Day Bank Holiday :Friday 8 May 2020 |
| Half Term | Mon 25 May 2020 - Fri 29 May 2020 |
| | Mon 1 June 2020 - Mon 20 July 2020 |
| INSET DAYS | Friday 14 February 2020, Monday 1st June 2020, Monday 20 July 2020 |

Dates for Diary 2020

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Mon 6 January | School Term Starts |
| Mon 13 January | Rev Stuart Assembly |
| Wed 15 January | Closing Date for Reception 2020 Applications |
| Mon 20 January | Open the Book Assembly |
| Fri 31 January | Nursery 2020 Offer Day |
| Wed 5 February | Y3 Synagogue Trip |
| Mon 10 February | PTFA Disco |
| Wed 12 February | Chance to Shine Assembly |
| Mon 2 March | Secondary 2020 Offer Day |
| Mon 9 - Fri 13 March | Health Week |
| Mon 9 & Tue 10 March | Lifebus |
| Mon 16 March | Open the Book Assembly |
| Fri 3 April | Easter Service at Church |
| Thurs 16 April | Reception 2020 Offer Day |
| Mon 18 May | PTFA Disco |
| Wed 3 June | Tempest Class Photographs |
| Mon 8- Fri 12 June | Year 5 Bikeability |
| Mon 29 June- Fri 3 July | Year 6 Residential Trip to Croft Farm |
| Fri 17 July | Year 6 Leavers Service at Church |

Staffing Update

SCHOOL OFFICE: Mrs Kelly will be providing much needed day-to-day support in the school office and Mrs Hansford will continue to work on a flexible part time basis throughout the spring term. Our Finance Officer, Mrs Justice, is also available to help to ensure the smooth running of the school office next term.

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Church Inspection November 2019

Following on from our letter informing parents of our "Excellent" SIAMS Inspection grade, we now hope you have had time to read the detailed report which has been published on our school website. This is a fantastic achievement for our school and one that we are extremely proud of.

ICT Upgrade - Funded by the Fentham Trust

Following the complete replacement of all the computers in the ICT Suite, along with all classrooms and office equipment, we are now well placed to develop our Computing curriculum and ICT provision even further. A huge thank you to the Fentham Trust for their continued support in enabling us to improve our ICT provision and to the PTFA for their on-going fundraising which has enabled us to replace some of our classroom smartboards.

Nursery & Reception Open Mornings

Prospective parents were invited to visit school during two open mornings in October and November. Both were extremely well attended by families looking to apply for Nursery and Reception places for next September. We look forward to receiving applications for September 2020.

Admission to Reception - September 2020

The closing date for submitting your child's application is 15 January 2020. If you have not yet applied and you live in Solihull, you must submit your application through the parent portal at www.solihull.gov.uk/pp. Applications submitted after the closing date will not be processed until after the offers have been made in April. Applying late is likely to affect the outcome to your application. If you live outside of Solihull you should contact your home council to apply.

Christmas Performances 2019

EYFS/KS1 "The Inn-Spectors" and KS2 "Joseph & His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"
Congratulations to all of our children and staff for their hard work in presenting, in total, six Christmas Performances. As always, we were delighted to dedicate two performances just for Grandparents. A huge thank you to everyone who followed our ticketing procedures by coming to only those performances for which they had tickets and ensuring childcare arrangements were in place for younger children. Our ticketing system is well-established and tries to ensure fairness to all.

Class Events

Nursery: Posting letters to Santa

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.

Reception: Dinosaur Day

The Reception children thoroughly enjoyed learning about dinosaurs this half term and to celebrate the end of the theme we had a Dinosaur Day. The children were encouraged to dress up in themed clothing and there were some amazing costumes! We had a dinosaur menu at lunchtime and made an edible dinosaur which we enjoyed eating at the end of the day!

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Year 1: Christingle

This term the children have been learning all about Advent and Christingle in RE. We made our very own Christingles and learnt what each part symbolised. The children had great fun and we even had our own little Christingle service at the end of the day.

Year 2: Updates

We have had a really busy time in Year 2 this term. We have continued our fantastic learning journey, focusing on the impact on the world of Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria, have loved taking the starring roles in the EYFS/KS1 Christmas Production of 'The Inn-Spectors', voted in the School Council, Eco-Council & Online Safety Committee elections, enjoyed external PE coaching, explored exactly what 'Bullying' is and how to use the STOP rules to help and have enjoyed designing and making our own bread (panettone) as part of our D & T topic, with Warburton's joining us to explore the process of 'field to plate' after Christmas.

Year 3: Swimming & Belgrade Theatre

Our swimming provision at George Fentham is designed to help our children achieve the National Curriculum expectation in swimming, this includes being able to swim 25m, tread water whilst attracting attention and perform a number of floats. Children that achieve this are also given the opportunity to learn different swimming strokes. All of our children have made excellent progress during the Autumn Term in developing their swimming skills, with many progressing from the shallow to the deeper pool. Lots of our children have already met the NC standard and those that are still working towards this, have definitely improved their confidence in water.

Class 3 recently had a fantastic time when they visited the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry to watch the pantomime 'Puss in Boots'. The pantomime was an excellent example of a fractured tale, which linked perfectly to our learning in English early in the Autumn Term. The children really enjoyed the performance, joining in with all the singing, booing and hissing. The jokes were even being retold in the classroom many days later! As always, the children were superb ambassadors for the school. The pantomime was a lovely way to start the Christmas festivities.

Year 4: Cheerleading Festival & Gymnastics

Year 4 took part in a Cheerleading Festival at Lode Heath School competing against 12 other teams from schools across the Solihull area. Benefitting from wonderful, rousing support from family and friends, the George Fentham team were one of the last up to perform, always a tricky position but one which did not faze our children in the slightest! They delivered an enthusiastic performance with tremendous energy and precision, synchronising their moves and showing off both their creativity and friendships. The children should be extremely proud of themselves and were, as ever, a great credit to their families and to the school.

This half term, Year 4 have been working on their Gymnastics skills with Becki the coach from Animated Dance. The class have improved their stamina, co-ordination skills and flexibility. Well done Year 4 - what a huge amount of fun and learning!

Year 5: Greek Day

In November, Year 5 had an excellent day with our Greek visitor, Alexis from Portals to the Past. 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 and a competitive game in the hall where the children had to use stealth tactics to knock down a piece of the other team's city

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wall! The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and came away armed with a wealth of information. Our visitor was very complimentary about the children's prior knowledge and their engagement in all of the activities. Well done, Class 5!

Year 6: Coventry Cathedral visit and Lunch Club Visit

Year 6 have been studying World War One and Two in the local area this term. Linked to this, we visited Coventry Cathedral, for a Blitz Day, on Friday 8th November. The children were able to experience life at the time of the Coventry Blitz and find out lots of facts. This really brought our history to life and the children made copious notes on the day! They also had the opportunity to look at both the ruined and new cathedrals.

Year 6 visited Hampton Lunch Club on 27th November to interview the senior residents about their memories of World War 2. The residents enjoy this opportunity to reminisce with the children and some even bring in medals, ID cards and bomb shells (made safe!) etc. to show the children. The children discovered lots of facts and information about everyday life during World War 2 and it is a very unique experience for them.

Year 6 HAPI Survey:

This term, Year 6 have again taken part in the HAPI Survey which has been introduced by our School Nurse Team. The children are surveyed on a variety of questions linked to healthy diet, exercise, healthy lifestyles and mental health and wellbeing. The results of this survey are used to help us plan PSHE sessions during the year, tailored to the class, and to organise any support needed from our School Nurse.

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 £408 worth of books was sold, enabling the school to choose approx. £200 of free books, shared across all classes. A huge thank you to all the children who entered the reading competition - we had some amazing and imaginative photos of our pupils reading in unusual locations. These are up on display in the school. Do come and have a look when you are in school.

Book Club

We have had a whole half a term's worth of Book Club meetings for Years 4, 5 and 6 Book Club members. Between us, we are reading a great variety of books from fantasy to mystery and even some horror too. Mrs Brooker enjoys sitting with the children and reading her books too - what a treat! It has been brilliant to see children so totally absorbed in their reading. Due to popular demand, Book Club will be running again next term and letters will be sent out asking for our George Fentham Year 4, 5 and 6 bookworms to sign up once again.

George Fentham "Rocks" the Cavern Club in Liverpool

Early on Monday 16th December a talented group of pupils and staff embarked on a coach trip to Liverpool. The group consisted of musicians and singers from years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

After a very long journey we arrived at the Beatles Museum where we had a very interesting morning doing the audio tour. After lunch the coach whisked us into the city centre for a very special performance at the Live Lounge at the Cavern Club. The children were brilliant and thoroughly enjoyed performing at this unique venue.

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There were some very tired children (and staff!) on the way back but in both directions the children were beautifully behaved - well done to everyone who participated in this very special event!

Junior Choir

The Junior Choir have had a busy half term! Mrs Kermode has been very proud of all the children taking part, and they have continued to impress all staff with their positive attitude and dedication. With our repertoire of different carols, we entertained visitors at the Christmas Fair as well as singing at the Lunch Club's annual Christmas dinner at Fentham Hall, receiving so many lovely comments from our audiences. Thank you to all children who have shown commitment and enthusiasm at all times. It has been a pleasure to work with you!

The School Bank

Our School Bank is open every Wednesday morning from 8.30am - 9.00am for children, aged 7 years and over, to deposit money in their HSBC bank account. Mrs Lowe is ably assisted by a team of Year 6 children who all do a fantastic job!

Christmas Service at Church

The whole school walked up to Church for our annual Christmas service with Rev Stuart. The roof was raised with some wonderful carols and the readers did a super job sharing the true meaning of Christmas with us all.

School Elections

All children, from Reception up to Year 6, took part in a formal election process, choosing new representatives for the School Council, new Eco-Council and Online Safety Committee for 2019/20. As part of our work on British Values, children are given opportunities to better understand the legal system and processes. By taking part in electing their own representatives, they get a small taste of what happens in the wider, adult world. Mrs Brown, Mrs Briggs and Mr Bass are now looking forward to working with the new members to make our school even better.

Open the Book Assembly

Thank you very much to the team from Open the Book who have come in twice to lead worship this term. Their presentations are always fun and interactive, with children dressing up to take part in the re-telling of Bible stories.

Christmas Lunch & Christmas Hat Competition

On Friday 13th 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:

| Year | Girls | Boys |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Nursery | Amba | Jack |
| Reception | Auriana | Arun |
| 1 | Mollie | Thomas |
| 2 | Frankie | Isaac D. |
| 3 | Aurora | Clark |
| 4 | Ophelia | Harry |

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| 5 | Natasha | Tyler-Max |
| 6 | Mollie M. | Thomas |

Well done to all those children who took part!

Chronicle Christmas Cover Competition

This year the theme for the 'Christmas Chronicle Cover Competition' was 'Togetherness'. 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 Rev Stuart and Mrs Salmon. The process was extremely difficult as the standard from everyone was so high.

The winning designs were:

Chronicle Christmas Cover

1st Prize Lydia (Year 3)

2nd Prize Matilda (Year 4)

3rd Prize Charles (Year 1)

Runners Up

Maggie (Reception), Frankie (Year 2), Fergus (Year 5) and Molly (Year 6)

Charities

British Legion Poppy Appeal

The total raised for selling poppies and stationery on behalf of the British Legion was **£350.84**

Thank you for your support.



Children in Need

On Friday 15th November we held a non-uniform day for Children in Need. The children wore PE kit and attended a session in the school hall with a video of the Joe Wicks Big Move. The total raised was **£230.16**

Update on Macmillan Coffee Morning

We raised a further £100 towards our three chosen Charities: Macmillan Cancer Care, Wear it Pink and Marie Curie.

Jolly Jumper Day

The wearing of seasonal jumpers on our Christmas lunch day raised £178 for Birmingham Children's Hospital Campaign to "Do Your Bit In A Festive Knit!"

Sporting and Competition Updates

Cheer Leading Competition

On Monday the 11th November a team of Year 4 Children took part in the South Solihull Cheer Leading Competition. Thanks to their amazing routine and loud cheer they came 5th out of 11 schools. Congratulations to all the team but especially Jake who was awarded Star Cheer leader by the judges.

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Biathlon

Congratulations to our Year 6 team who attended St Martin's School on Tuesday 5th November to take part in a 25m swim and 400m run as part of the Biathlon. What amazing determination and teamwork! It was lovely to see how they encouraged and supported one another in this team event. It was great to see so many of the children set new personal bests.

Dodgeball

On Tuesday 19th November a team of Year 5 children attended the local sixth form collage to take part in the first round of the South Solihull Dodgeball Championship. They were brilliant. Not only did they play with great determination, they showed super qualities of teamwork, honesty and respect. We were delighted that they came 2nd and have been invited to take part in the Finals early next year. Well done team!

George Fentham Football Team Report by Molly & Tabs (Year 6)

The George Fentham football team have had a great start to their competitive year.

On Wednesday 20th November the school football team played two matches against Berkswell and Yew Tree as part of the South Solihull Small School's League. The team were determined to do their best even if it meant not winning. When they played local rivals Berkswell, they drew one all. Traditionally, Berkswell are exceptionally good and have beaten past teams by many points, so this result made Mr Bass (our football coach) very proud of us.

Yew Tree were a very different team, George Fentham played and won by five to one. Mr Bass was extremely happy, especially in the second half when they noticed that there was a player struggling with some leg difficulties. George Fentham showed great qualities of respect and friendship by ensuring he had some shots and passes with the ball.

We are all very proud of our football team and know that, no matter who they play next, they will do their best and respect the opposing team.

Well done and thank you to everyone who attends training every week and who has been involved in the matches (don't worry we have several more matches lined up early in the New Year).

If you have any suggestions for new clubs in the Spring Term please speak to Mrs Bradburn.

A Message from Jet Dance Academy

Places are available in after school dance club!

Every Wednesday in the main school hall, straight after school until 4.45pm

Join our qualified and passionate dance teachers to keep fit, learn technique and routines to perform!

Certificates of recognition each week.

Open to Years 1-6 (class is split into infants and juniors).

Email info@jetdanceuk.com to book your trial lesson now!



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A Message from the PTFA



Thank you for helping us raise a fantastic £3,500 for Project ICT

Thank you to everyone who has supported the PTFA this term! Whether you have helped organise, attended an event or donated - together we have raised over **£3,500!!** The Christmas Wreath making was again a lovely morning and raised approx £300, the beautiful Christmas Cards raised £283 and the Christmas Fair was as enjoyable as ever and raised over £3,000.

This year we had some fabulous George Fentham shopping bags available to buy at the fair - they were a great hit! If you didn't manage to pick one up but would like to, we have more available to purchase at school reception.

As well as the enjoyment we can all gain from events like these, we can't emphasize enough how the money they generate is so important to the school in the current financial climate. This money goes a long way to support making our school a wonderful place for children to learn and grow together. This term we will not only be able to fund the beautiful Christmas tree and a small present for each child, we can invest again in 'Project ICT Innovation'.

Our fundraising challenge doesn't end here... we still need your help

One easy way you can keep up the support is by doing your online shopping through www.easyfunding.org.uk. Just go to the website and search for George Fentham Endowed PTFA and you can raise money every time you shop online.



The PTFA's success is dependent on your continued support and engagement. If you would like to get more involved, any help big or small is appreciated, please contact us: gftpfa@gmail.com or via www.classlist.com. Or just turn up at our next meeting. We look forward to meeting some new faces in 2020.

All of the PTFA would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year!

Date of the next meeting: 8:00pm - White Lion - Tuesday 7th January

<https://www.facebook.com/PTFAGeorgeFentham/>

Don't forget to check out Classlist to find out the latest 100 Club winners.



The BASE

Please be aware that The Base is run by a Voluntary Management Committee which is completely separate to George Fentham Endowed School. Therefore, if you have any queries regarding The Base or about places, please contact Mrs Tina Coley directly on 01675 443913.

A Message from the School Nurse Team

Norovirus Information:

The following is important key information from the health protection agency and your school nursing team in relation to a recent outbreak within the local area.

- Norovirus is a highly infectious winter vomiting bug
- It is mostly active between autumn and February/March
- Symptoms include: projectile vomiting, watery diarrhoea and some people can have a raised temperature and headache or aching limbs.
- Norovirus is easily transmitted from person to person and can live on surfaces for many days.
- Pupils infected by the norovirus must not return to school until 48 hours after symptoms have ended
- There is no treatment for Norovirus but it is important to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids.
- Good hygiene by thorough hand washing is important to prevent others from being infected.



Wet



Soap



Wash



Rinse



Dry

You can contact your school nurse in many ways; either by asking in school when your school nurse is in next or phone us on **0121 770 1919 (North)** or **0121 726 6754 (South)**

You can also follow us on twitter  @SolSchNurses

A Crime Prevention Message from West Midlands Police

We have been asked to share the crime prevention message below as this coincides with school collection times:

In recent days we have seen a shift in times when residential burglaries have been reported in Solihull. The key times have been between 4pm and 7pm. Homes have been unoccupied and in darkness as this is a time when homeowners have not returned from work or are out and about busy with family.

We saw a similar pattern this time last year and although burglary numbers in Solihull are down by around 20% for the same period this year we are mindful that the darker nights present more opportunities for burglars.

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Using a light timer or a Fake TV is a great way to light up your home when you are out. We recommend setting a light to come on at around 3.30pm as it is dark indoors by late afternoon. Our officers are out on active patrols speaking to residents about darker nights crime prevention and if you need more advice on home security you can visit our virtual reality home 27 Station Road on WMP online

<https://www.west-midlands.police.uk/27stationroad>

Thank you and kind regards
Alison Rudd PC 7022
Solihull Partnership Team
Solihull Police Station
Main switchboard number 101 extension 8913097
To report a non emergency dial 101

'Serving our communities, protecting them from harm'

Email: a.rudd@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Website: www.west-midlands.police.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/westmidlandspolice

YouTube: www.youtube.com/westmidlandspolice

Instagram: Solihullpolice



Sign up to the new messaging system on: <https://www.wmnow.co.uk/>

REMINDER: Mobile Phones in School

May we remind you that mobile phones must not be used in school. The only exception to this is if parents use their phones to take photographs, *of their own child, for their own personal use* at the end of Class Assemblies or Performances. *We request that these images are not published on any form of social media.* This is in line with our school policies and procedures. Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off and put away at all other times. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Medicines in School

Please be aware 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 or whilst on school site for extra activities e.g. clubs and discos. 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 label with the above details. Should you wish to discuss this in any further detail, please contact the school office.

Dietary Requirements / Food Allergies

Please note it is the responsibility of Parents or Carers to advise the school office, in writing, of any dietary requirements or food allergies for each individual child. Please note 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.

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School Meals - Outstanding Debt

Parents of children in KS2:

From 1st September 2019 School meals have increased to £2.15 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.

Reporting Absence from School

Please may we remind parents and carers to ensure they call our absence line or email the School office by 9:00am on the first day and all subsequent further days of their child's absence. Absence which is not reported in this way will be recorded as unauthorised and could result in further action.

Please be advised if a child is absent due to sickness or diarrhoea, a minimum of 48 hours from the last episode is required before returning to school.

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 2019/20. 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, 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 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.

And finally.....

After a very busy and enjoyable autumn term, I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 6th January 2020.

Mrs J Gaughan
Head Teacher