

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER 2 AUTUMN 2022**

December 2022

**Thoughts and Prayers**

We begin our Autumn 2 Newsletter by sending our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to all of the families who were affected by the tragic events at Babbs Mill Lake in Kingshurst, last Sunday. The response and support from the emergency services and local community has been truly inspirational. We hope that during this time of unbearable sadness, comfort can be found through family, friendship and faith.

At George Fentham we have, age appropriately, spoken with our children about how to keep themselves safe at this time of year. We have reminded children about the dangers of cold water and thin ice. Many of our older children were aware of what had happened and shared their thoughts and feelings in a sensitive and thoughtful way.

We are sure that many of you will have already spoken to your children about the dangers of frozen rivers, ponds and lakes and would urge all parents and carers to reinforce key safety messages in order to ensure everyone remains safe over the winter period.



**Term Dates**

<b>SCHOOL TERMS &amp; HOLIDAY DATES</b>	
	<u><b>2022/2023</b></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 2022 - 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>Bank Holiday:</b> Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 - His Majesty's Coronation
<b>INSET DAYS</b>	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2022, Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2022, Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022, Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2023 and Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**Dates for Diary 2022-2023**

**2023**

Thu 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 4 Roman Soldier Visit
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 5 Young Voices Rehearsal
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> January pm	Year 5 Young Voices Performance
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Reception September 2023 closing date
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> January pm	Year 5 Dodgeball Tournament at Arden School
Tue 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 2 Infant Agility tbc

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER 2 AUTUMN 2022**

Tue 24 <sup>th</sup> January pm	GFES Girls & Boys Football Matches at Old Sihilians
Thur 26 <sup>th</sup> January am	Year 3 Trip to Mad Museum
Tue 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Nursery 2023 Offer Day
Tue 31 <sup>st</sup> January pm	GFES Girls Football match at Old Sihilians
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> February pm	GFES Boys Football match
Tue 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 5 & 6 Netball Skills after school competition
Thu 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 3 My Personal Best Festival
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Secondary Offer Day
Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Year 1 Gymnastics
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> March pm	GFES Girls Football match
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> March	KS2 Archery after school competition
Tue 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 4 visit to Cadbury World
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Reception 2023 Offer Day
Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 Bikeability
Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Reception "Get Pedalling"
Tue 9 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs Week
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 Residential - Culmington Manor
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Tempest Photography - class photos
Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 6 Borough Athletics Competition

**Staffing Update**

At the end of the Spring Term, Mrs Hansford will be retiring from George Fentham Endowed School. Mrs Hansford has worked in our school office for 19 years and is well known to all of our children and families. We will be incredibly sad to see her go, but will be wishing her a relaxing and restful retirement, with time to enjoy lots of new interests and hobbies!



**Christmas Performances**



**EYFS/KS1 Christmas Production - Prickly Hay**

After 3 years being unable to do larger scale productions, we have had great pleasure in welcoming parents and carers back into school for our EYFS and KS1 Christmas Production. Huge congratulations to all of our children and staff for their hard work and enthusiasm in presenting 'Prickly Hay', which was FAB-U-LOUS and enjoyed by all!

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.

**AUDIENCE NUMBER:191**

**KS2 Christmas Carol Concert**

Since half term, the KS2 children have been focussing in assemblies on their singing - working on good posture, using their diaphragms to improve their breathing technique and the clarity of their words. We have been so impressed with the focus of all children in these sessions and the way that they have been committed to learning their Christmas songs for our Carol Service in Church. The services themselves, really demonstrated the children's hard work and all classes performed their Christmas songs brilliantly and with confidence. Congratulations to you all on a marvellous performance.

**AUDIENCE NUMBER:175**

GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER 2 AUTUMN 2022



**Chronicle Christmas Cover Competition**



This year, the theme for the "Christmas Chronicle Cover Competition" was "Peace on Earth". The competition was open to the whole school and many entries from each class were gathered. Judging took place from members of the church and school, including Rev Stuart and Mrs Salmon. The process was extremely difficult as the standard from everyone was so high. On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November there was an assembly led by Rev Stuart and Mrs Gaughan. The winners and runners up were awarded prizes and certificates for their fantastic artwork. The winning designs were:

**Chronicle Christmas Cover**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize Amba (Year 2)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Elsie (Year 5)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Daisy (Year 1)

**Runners Up**

Jai (Nursery)

Belle-Sophia (Reception)

Maggie (Year 3)

Pollyanna (Year 4)

Eva (Year 6)



**Christmas Lunch & Christmas Hat Competition**



On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December children and staff 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 homemade Christmas Hat competition. A huge thank you to Mrs Kelly (our Chief Elf!) for organising this event, including fabulous table decorations and prizes. 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	Winners
Reception	Henry & Isla
1	Sonny & Marcy
2	Jack & Rosa
3	Sam & Auri
4	Thomas & Cassidy
5	Lucas & Dolly
6	Edward & Eva

Well done to all those children who took part!

**Class Events**

**Nursery**

**Posting Letters to Father Christmas**

Nursery children walked to the village Post Office to post their letters to Father Christmas recently. As always, Tariq made the children very welcome as they bought stamps. The walk gave the children the opportunity to see the changes that occur in winter as well as noticing features of our village environment. They also thought carefully about how to cross Fentham Road safely.

**Mrs Durkin**

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER 2 AUTUMN 2022**

**Reception**

**Dinosaur Day**

The Reception children have thoroughly enjoyed our learning theme 'Big Roars, here come the Dinosaurs' this half term. The children have found out which dinosaurs are Herbivores, Carnivores and Omnivores. They also used non-fiction books to find out why some dinosaurs have Plates, Frills and long necks! To celebrate the end of the theme we had a Dinosaur day. The children were encouraged to dress up in themed clothing, they looked amazing! During the day the children made dinosaur heads and tails, which they proudly wore! We had a dinosaur menu at lunchtime which was delicious. The children took home a clay dinosaur they made as a souvenir.

The children deserve a lovely break with their family after such a busy Autumn term.

Merry Christmas everyone.



**Mrs Brown**

**Year 1**

This half 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. In English we were reading stories written by Judith Kerr and in particular a story all about Mog the cat. We read "Mog's Christmas Calamity" and "Mog's Christmas". We loved learning about what Mog got up to and how things went wrong when she was around! We also learnt a powerful message of love and support. If things go wrong, there are people around us who will help and care for us. Year 1 are kind and caring just like the neighbours in "Mog's Christmas Calamity". We are so proud of them!

**Mrs Salmon and Mrs Mandell**

**Year 2**

This half term has been just as FAB-U-LOUS as the first half! We have continued our learning journey, laughed lots and really begun to work independently! Some of our highlights have included:

- *"I loved finding out all about explorers, like Sir Francis Drake and what the Victorians invented, in our History. I didn't know that the car, camera and telephone were all invented in this time."*
- *"Our D & T with Mrs Mallin was brilliant. I loved designing and making our own chair for a traditional tale character. I did Daddy Bear, so my chair had to be BIG!"*
- *"It was fun learning about plants and what they need to grow. We planted some seeds and investigated what happened if they didn't have light or water."*

In PE we have enjoyed learning about 'attacking, defending and shooting' in our ball skills session and continuing our gymnastics sequences. We have explored the story of Rama and Sita, to help us better understand the Hindu festival of Diwali and the best bit...learning our lines, songs and acting for the Christmas Production - Prickly Hay.

**Mr Bass**

**Year 3**

What a busy and exciting half term it has been! Year 3 have shown real focus and determination when creating a sandwich bag for Paddington. We learnt how to join material together using a

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL**  
**NEWSLETTER 2 AUTUMN 2022**

blanket stitch which was really tricky to begin with. We kept on trying and we felt so proud of ourselves in the end, the results are fantastic!

Our writing is really improving and we have written in many different styles this half term. We have written some amazing non-chronological reports all about pandas and clear, concise instructions on how to make an origami bear. We have had to think carefully about how to present our writing and the language we needed to use for different purposes.

One of our favourite lessons was learning all about Howard Carter and his discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun. We were totally absorbed with this and were in awe at the many treasures discovered which included gold toe caps (our favourite discovery!)

**Mrs Hodge**

**Year 4**

Year 4 have had a fantastic half-term. The children have been busy applying their science knowledge in electricity, from last half-term, in their Design and Technology project. It has been lovely to watch the children confidently use their skills in a practical and purposeful manner. Our English has really captivated the children's interest, with lessons linking back to their prior learning, specifically to their history topic on the Romans. They have worked really hard, learning all about Roman Myths and have produced some excellent pieces of writing, really showcasing their extending grammar knowledge. Another highlight from Autumn 2 has been our PE unit of work on Cheerleading. The children have been extremely fortunate to have received professional coaching and have enjoyed recording their final cheerleading routine for submission to the South Solihull Schools Sports Partnership Virtual Cheerleading competition.

There have been lots of other enjoyable moments in school in Year 4 but our final snippet has got to be about the children's development in their Wider Opportunity music lessons. Even in such a short space of time, the children have already learnt one piece of string music and are busy perfecting their second piece. They have learnt the basic notes of their instruments and have recently progressed onto using their bows. We are very excited to see where our learning takes us next. Well done Year 4!

**Mrs Briggs and Mrs Gibbons**

**Year 5**

In Year 5 this half term, the children have been tasting, designing and making their own Christmas biscuits. We tasted and examined the ingredients in shop bought biscuits, thinking about why the ingredients that manufacturers use are sometimes different, with companies perhaps adding in extra colouring or flavouring to make their biscuit's appearance better or the taste more enhanced for the consumer. All children worked hard on creating an attractive biscuits design, thinking also about appearance, texture, flavour and size. They then drew a detailed design of their biscuit before adapting a basic biscuit recipe and writing out their own recipe instructions for making it. We were so impressed with the maturity of the children when it came to making their biscuits and the sensible manner in which they went about it. Well done to all children for producing a fabulous end product which was decorated beautifully!

**Mrs Bradburn & Mrs Kermode**

**Year 6**

Year 6 have been learning all about WWII. To bring the Topic to life, we visited Coventry Cathedral for a Blitz Experience! Over to the children...

- *"During the trip, I learnt many new things about the Blitz, but I most enjoyed the Air Raid Shelter as this brought a whole new perspective to WWII for me."*
- *"I enjoyed visiting Coventry Cathedral. My favourite part was probably when Provost Howard (acting) explained what happened the night of the Blitz. It made it real. I did also love the part where we learned about the Guzunder (Chamber Pot)!"*
- *"Provost Howard was mesmerizing. I felt like I was actually back in WWII."*

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER 2 AUTUMN 2022**

- *"My favourite part was when we sang songs (to keep up morale). We sang Run Rabbit and then changed the lyrics."*
- *"The new Cathedral is beautiful. We were all shocked by how big it is and the view from the top."*
- *"I learnt how to help others in a fire and how to support them which is particularly useful."*
- *"We remembered Coventry Cathedral was destroyed by 11 hours of constant bombing. 111 factories out of 180 were destroyed and more were damaged. 500 tons of explosives were dropped on the city in those 11 hours."*
- *"I loved looking at all the letters, bills, photographs and diary entries. Those poor people."*
- *"Hearing how people felt (the actors) made it feel real."*
- *"We played a game called Drop Sticks which children would have played in that era. It was so simple but yet so fun!"*

**Miss Timothy**

**Eco Council**

**POP22**

Our new Eco-Councillors have had a busy start to their tenure, beginning with helping to organise 'Protecting Our Planet Day 2022' (POP22).

On the 10<sup>th</sup> November, every class in KS1 and KS2 took part in POP22. This was a national initiative where schools from around the UK watched scientists online talk about how climate change is impacting our rainforests and oceans. During the event, children participated in an investigation which was designed to support the scientists' discussions. A thought provoking enrichment opportunity.

**Christmas Jumper Competition**

Did you know that 95% of Christmas jumpers sold contain plastic? During an Eco meeting, the Councillors found out about the environmental impact that Christmas jumpers have. This resulted in Eco-Council's Christmas competition initiative. The children at George Fentham have been challenged to design an eco-friendly Christmas jumper.

With two Eco events already under their belt, our Eco Team are making good progress towards attaining a level 1 Eco-Award for 2022-23.

The winners are:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Winners</b>
Reception	Emily M
1	Olivia
2	Matilda
3	Maggie
4	Cassidy
5	Freya

Well done to all who participated!

**Mrs Briggs**

**PE and Sports Update**

**Fantastic Footballers**

We took both our girls' team and boys' team to the Solihull Football League night on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Our first official outing of the year. The children were amazing, they had a superb sense of teamwork- cheering each other on and sharing advice. They impressed us all with some fancy footwork. The boys' game against St Andrews was particularly exciting with some superb defensive as well as attacking play.

## GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2 AUTUMN 2022

Boys:

- GFES 2 - St Patricks 0
- GFES 2 - St Andrews 2

Girls:

- GFES 2 - Hockley Heath 2
- GFES 3 - St George & St Teresa 0

A great start to the League. Our next league night is 24<sup>th</sup> January. Team letters will be given out in the New Year.

### Sports Clubs

Well done to all the children who have shown commitment to our School Sports Clubs. It is wonderful to see so many children participating and being active.

Keep an eye out for our sign-up letter detailing the new club offering for Spring 23- it will be sent the first week back.

### 12 Days Of Fitmas

**THE IMPORTANCE OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**  
Physical activity promotes:  
Brain Development, Feeling Good, Self-Confidence  
Health & Fitness, Co-ordination, Improved Sleep

**60 minutes**  
is the recommended dose of physical activity each day, 30 minutes of which is the responsibility of school. All activities should increase your heart rate, make you breathe faster and feel warmer.  
Here are a few ideas for getting active...

Run, Cycle, Walk, Dance, Scoot, Sports, Climb, Swim, Play

Make sure you spread your physical activity throughout the day!

**12 DAYS OF FITMAS**  
12 days of fun Christmas-themed physical activity challenges  
21st November to 16th December

Put a tick in the gold boxes as you complete each task, and have fun!

SKI SLALOM	CLIMB THE CHRISTMAS TREE	SANTA SAYS	SANTA HAT ROULETTE
HEALTH WITH BUDDY THE ELF	SAVE OR STEAL?	PASS THE PUDDING	DANCE ALONG
CHRISTMAS JUMPER (8th Dec)	SANTA DASH (9th Dec)	HEADS & TAILS	CHRISTMAS DISCO

@SOLIHULLNORTH @SSOLIHULLSSP #12DAYSOFFITMAS #MERRYFITMAS

The children have been taking part in the 12 days of Fitmas in school. Join in the fun and have a go at some of the activities at home to encourage your child to develop a healthy lifestyle. Use the links below to support the activities:

1. Ski Slalom. Imagine you are a skier, jump side to side as you ski down the mountain. <https://youtu.be/6-nXLBfW7Oq>
2. Climb the tree. Decide how many of each activity they would like to complete -from 1 to 12 (e.g. 5 star jumps, 8 sit ups etc...) Complete the set of exercises in number order, beginning with 12, and ending with 1. How quickly can pupils climb the Christmas tree?
3. Santa says. Just like 'Simon says' but with Santa.

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER 2 AUTUMN 2022**



4. Put different exercise ideas in Santa's Hat. (e.g. shadowboxing, burpees) Have a go at each one you pull out for 30seconds before pulling the next one out.
5. Dance along. Complete one or more of 'KIDZ BOP dance-along' routines  
 •<https://youtu.be/fxK9MTSHD3g> -Santa Tell Me •<https://youtu.be/1m0MJfCZBQU> - Christmas Everywhere •<https://youtu.be/SLW75yltMUK> -Santa Claus is Coming to Town  
 •<https://youtu.be/CSOSFxrjDu8> -Last Christmas
6. Christmas Jumper. How many star jumps can you do in 30 seconds? Have a few goes to see if you can improve on your personal best.
7. Santa Dash. put your Christmas jumper on and go for a jog or a walk.
8. Heads and tails. Flip a coin. Heads: jump up and put your hands on your heads. Tails: Crouch down in a tuck position.
9. Christmas Disco. Have a bop to your favourite Christmas tune.
10. Health with buddy the elf. Click the link below and join Buddy the Elf in a Christmas-themed workout(9 mins 48 secs): <https://youtu.be/R82EBGym9fw>.
11. Save or steal. A twist on tag. Where the taggers are the Grinch trying to steal presents.
12. Pass the pudding. Find a ball or pillow to represent a Christmas pudding. Line up all the family and pass the ball over and under to reach the end of the line.

Have fun this Fitmas!

**Mrs Bradburn**

Autumn 2022 Clubs & Music Lessons Timetable			
Day	During the school day	Lunchtime	After-school
Monday			Jet Dance After School Club 3.20 - 4.30 pm <a href="#">Katie Baker &amp; Lauren Mancell</a>
Tuesday	SMS Cello Lessons <a href="#">Mrs Rottenbury</a> SMS Drum Lessons noon <a href="#">Mr Elliott</a> SMS Violin & Viola Lessons pm <a href="#">Miss Gosling</a>	KS2 Lunch Club (by invitation only) <a href="#">Natalie Hardy - Adaptive Sports</a>	KS2 Tuesday Girls After School Football 3.20 - 4.20 pm <a href="#">Megan Smirles - Sports Development</a> <a href="#">Louis Andrews - Sports Development</a>
Wednesday	Wider Opportunities - Y4 Strings <a href="#">Miss Gosling</a>	KS1 Lunch Club (by invitation only) <a href="#">Chloe Ebbon - Adaptive Sports</a>	KS2 Wednesday After School Football 3.20 - 4.20 pm <a href="#">Simon Harrison - Sports Development</a> <a href="#">Ben Maxwell -Sports Development</a>



**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER 2 AUTUMN 2022**

Thursday	SMS Woodwind 9.40am <a href="#">Ms Roe</a>	Years 3 & 4 Multi Sport Lunch Club 12-40 - 1.15pm <a href="#">Natalie Hardy - Adaptive Sports</a>	KS1 After School Multi Sports Club 3.20-4.20 pm <a href="#">Natalie Hardy - Adaptive Sports</a> <a href="#">Bel Chefri - Adaptive Sports</a>
Friday	SMS Keyboard & Guitars pm <a href="#">Mr Jones</a>		Years 5 & 6 Mixed Netball Club 3.20-4.20 pm <a href="#">Natalie Hardy - Adaptive Sports</a> <a href="#">Chloe Ebbon - Adaptive Sports</a>

**Anti-bullying Week: Reach Out**

Anti-Bullying Week 2022 took place from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November following the theme 'Reach Out'. Monday was Odd Socks Day where we all wore them to show that different is good and individuality should be celebrated.

Key messages shared included:

- Bullying can affect millions of lives across the country and it can leave people feeling hopeless but it doesn't have to be that way.
- The message we gave in school, through Mrs Bailey's assembly, was if we challenge it, we can change it and it starts by reaching out.
- Whether it's in school, at home, in the community or online, it's important that we reach out and offer each other the support we need.
- Reach out to someone you trust if you need to talk.
- Reach out to someone you know is being bullied.
- From teachers to parents and influencers to politicians, we all have a responsibility to help each other reach out.
- Together, let's be the change we want to see.
- Reflect on our own behaviour, set positive examples and create kinder communities.
- It takes courage, but it can change lives.

These messages were followed up across the week in the Children's PSHE lessons where the children took part in various activities with an anti-bullying theme.

**Charities**

**Macmillan Coffee Morning:** We held our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you to everyone who supported us by baking cakes and joining us for a cup of tea or coffee in school, the total raised was **£187.84**

**Poppy Appeal:** The British Legion have advised that a total of **£249.55** was raised selling poppies & related merchandise in school during early November.

**Children in Need Day:** Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November was a non-uniform day with the school kitchen making Pudsey biscuits & smoothies for those children who had a school meal on that day. At George Fentham, we love to support this valuable charity which works with children & young people across the country. Donations were made via Parent Pay where we can report **£433.00** was collected.

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER 2 AUTUMN 2022**

**Jolly Jumper Day:** On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December donations for wearing a Christmas jumper were collected for Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity. Thanks to your support we raised **£304.00**

**THANKS TO YOUR FANTASTIC SUPPORT WE HAVE RAISED A TOTAL OF £1,174.39 THIS TERM!!**

**Parent and Carer Questionnaire Autumn 2**

Thank you to everyone who completed our Parent and Carer Questionnaire. Your feedback is extremely important and valuable to us. The results were overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to sharing more information with you at the start of next term.

**PTFA**

A huge thank you to everyone who supported us at the Hampton Christmas lights switch on last week. Whether it was filling and decorating a surprise bag, donating chocolate/wine for the tombola or visiting our stall. We raised an amazing **£595!**

Also thanks to those who placed an order for the Christmas Card Project and big well done to the children for their lovely designs. This project raised a further **£340** which is fantastic!

This term has been really positive for GFPTFA with almost **£1000** raised through our Christmas fundraising activities. We have also welcomed some new members and have formed a new committee:

Co-chairs: Alexis Gardner, Suzie Coulthurst  
Social/ Publicity Officer: Michelle Rayner  
Treasurer: Chris Day  
Secretary: Leanne Perry/ Stephanie Varnish  
Fundraising coordinator: Emma Busby Tomkins

We hope, with all your support that we will be able to increase our contribution next year with more fund raising and events for the children. In the meantime, here are a few easy ways you can support the PTFA over the Christmas period:

- Join Easyfundraising and help us raise money by simply shopping online. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/gfeschoolptfa/>
- Shop through AmazonSmile and search for George Fentham Endowed School Parent Teacher Association. <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1022563-0>
- Buy your school name labels from: [www.mynametags.co.uk](http://www.mynametags.co.uk) quoting the school ID: 26751 - we will receive 20% of your order value. They really are fantastic labels!

If you would like to get more involved, any help big or small is appreciated, please contact us: [gftpfa@gmail.com](mailto:gftpfa@gmail.com) or just turn up at our next meeting. Date of the next meeting: TBC via class WhatsApp groups.

Thank you. Wishing you and your families a wonderful Christmas.

**George Fentham PTFA**

GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER 2 AUTUMN 2022

**Dogs near Playground Entrance**

*We continue to ask for support from our Parents/Carers to keep all dogs away from the path between school and the allotments at the start and end of the school day.*

Not all of our children are comfortable around dogs and some children are particularly frightened and nervous around them. We hope everyone is able to support us in keeping this area free from dogs at all times. Thank you.

**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 2022-23. 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, Headteachers 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 £2.30 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.....**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff for their hard work during an incredibly busy half term. We hope our Christmas celebrations and performances have added some Christmas magic and sparkle at this special time of year!

On behalf of everyone at George Fentham Endowed School, I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A reminder that Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 is an INSET Day. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

**Mrs J Gaughan**  
**Headteacher**

