

GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 2 - AUTUMN 2016



December 2016

Term Dates

SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	<u>2016/2017</u>
Autumn Term	Mon 5 September 2016 - Fri 21 October 2016
Half Term	Mon 24 October - Fri 28 October 2016
	Mon 31 October - Fri 16 December 2016
Spring Term	Tue 3 January 2017 - Fri 17 February 2017
Half Term	Mon 20 February - Fri 24 February 2017
	Mon 27 February - Fri 7 April 2017
Summer Term	Mon 24 April 2017 - Fri 26 May 2017 <i>May Day Bank Holiday Mon 1 May 2017</i>
Half Term	Mon 29 May 2017 - Fri 2 June 2017
	Mon 5 June 2017 - Tue 25 July 2017
	<u>Remaining Inset Days 2016/2017:</u> Friday 17 February 2017 Monday 5 June 2017

Dates for Diary

----2016---

Mon 5 December pm	Reception visit to theatre "The Stick Man"
Tue 6 December 9.30am	Year 6 Health Checks
Tue 6 December 1.45pm	KS2 Grandparents Performance (ticket event)
Tue 6 December 6.30pm	KS2 Evening Performance (ticket event)
Wed 7 December 1.45pm	KS2 Afternoon Performance (ticket event)
Wed 9 December	Christmas Fair to be confirmed
Mon 12 December	Nursery 2017 Admissions: closing date
Tue 13 December 9.30am	Nursery, Reception & KS1 Grandparents Production (ticket event)
Tue 13 December 6.30pm	Reception & KS1 Evening Production (ticket event)
Wed 14 December 9.30am	Nursery, Reception & KS1 Morning Production (ticket event)
Thur 15 December	Christmas Lunch/ Christmas Jumper Day

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Tue 3 January pm	Year 5 Athletics Workshop
Fri 6 January	Years 5&6 Football Coaching starts
Tue 10 January am	Reception Hearing Tests
Sunday 15 January	Reception 2017 Admissions: closing date
Thur 26 January 4.00-5.30pm	Basketball League at Lode Heath School

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Tue 31 January	12.30-2.30pm	Year 5 Team, Athletics Roadshow, Solihull Six Form College
Tue 7 February		Safer Internet Day
Wed 8 February	am	Nursery- Playhouse Theatre Production in Hall
Thur 9 February		Year 4 Visit to Ashmolean Museum
Thur 16 February	pm	Year 6 Visit to Ballet - "Cinderella" Birmingham Hippodrome
Wed 1 March		Secondary 2017 offers out
Thur 9 March		Year 5 Rainforest Roadshow
Wed 22 March		Nursery 2017 offers out
Thur 23 March	4.00-5.30pm	Basketball League at St Peter's School
Mon 27- Fri 31 March		Health Week
Mon 27 March		Life Bus Day 1
Tue 28 March		Life Bus Day 2
Sat 15 April		Reception 2017 offers out
Tue 2 May		Year 4 Cricket Coaching starts
Mon 8 May - Fri 12 May		Y6 Assessment Week
Tue 16 May		Year 1 to visit Toy Museum at Shugborough Hall
Tur 18 May 2016		Year 4 to "Strings Explosion" Warwick Arts Centre
Mon 19 - Fri 23 June		Year 6 Condover Hall residential visit
Wed 5 July am		Year 1 visit to Pizza Express, Resorts World, NEC
Mon 10- Fri 14 July		Year 5 Bikeability

Governor Update - Mrs Matharu, Chair of Governors

Hello and welcome to what I hope will be a regular update from the Governing Body in your newsletter. Whilst the Head Teacher is responsible for the day-to-day leadership and management of the school the Governing Body continues to challenge and support Mrs Gaughan and her staff as they work to raise the educational standards and achievement of all the children.

As you may know, each class has their own link Governor who will visit that class each term. This term the focus of the class visits was to look at the effect of the recent introduction of Bloom's Taxonomy, a useful tool used by staff to expand the pupil's questioning and reasoning skills. Each Governor spent a morning with their class talking with both children and staff, observing a lesson and looking at the children's work. I am pleased to report that the Governors are confident that this new intervention is helping to ensure that each child is reaching their full potential.

Finally, on behalf of the Governors I would like to finish by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Christmas Performances

Congratulations and well done to all of our children for their fantastic productions of "The Snow Queen" (Key Stage 2) and "Donkey for Sale" (Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1). We are so proud of all of our children and we hope you enjoyed your visit. It was the perfect start to the Festive Season!

With increasing numbers of children attending George Fenthams and a maximum audience capacity of 120, we found ourselves in an unprecedented situation with ticket demand for the KS2 evening performance reaching over 150. After asking for your support, we were incredibly grateful to those of you who were kind enough to exchange your evening tickets for daytime

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tickets. As a result we were able to successfully allocate tickets as requested for all shows. Clearly we will need to re-evaluate our current Christmas arrangements for next year and make some significant changes to ensure demand does not exceed supply in 2017. We very much hope that you will support us in any future changes.

Performance Audiences

KS2- "The Snow Queen" Grandparents Performance	Tue 6 December 2016 =	110
Evening Performance	Tue 6 December 2016 =	120
Afternoon performance	Wed 7 December 2016 =	74
	(Children from Classes 1 and 2 =	60)
	TOTAL 364	

KS1/EYFS "Donkey for Sale"

Grandparents Performance	Tue 13 December 2016 =	104
Evening Performance	Tue 13 December 2016 =	98
Morning Performance	Wed 14 December 2016 =	108
	(Children from Key Stage 2 =	114)
	TOTAL 424	

TOTAL FOR BOTH PERFORMANCES = 788

Christmas Fair

We were really delighted to welcome so many visitors to our Christmas fair on Friday 9th December. Thank you for your lovely comments and feedback. This year we had five classrooms and the school hall open with a range of games, craft activities, face painting, tattoos, school stalls and external stall holders as well as a selection of food and cakes. We even had a very special visit from Santa, who told us that George Fentham children are some of the most delightful and well-mannered children he has ever met!!

The Christmas Fair was only made possible by the fantastic support we had from our school community. Thank you to everyone who sent in donations, raffle prizes and spent Friday evening with us. We would like to say a very special thank you to those parents and staff who formed our 2016 Christmas Committee. The group, chaired by Mrs Woodall, met regularly and worked incredibly hard over a number of weeks to organise the entire event. In addition we had lots of staff and volunteers who helped set up during the day and helped to run stalls during the evening.

WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO REBECCA AND ZOE IN YEAR 6 FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHRISTMAS FAIR. THE GIRLS PLANNED AND RAN THEIR VERY OWN CRACKER STALL CONTRIBUTING £44.77 TO THE TOTAL RAISED - WELL DONE TO YOU BOTH!

As a result of everyone's hard work and generosity we are delighted to announce that the total raised at our 2016 Christmas Fair was £1453.34. Plans are in place to spend this money and we will update you further in the spring term.



Staffing Updates

Mrs Winter, one of our Lunchtime Supervisors, will be leaving us on Friday 16th December. We would like to thank her for her hard work and we wish her every success in the future.

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In January we will be advertising for a new Lunchtime Supervisor to join our team.

Please look out for the advert after Christmas.

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.

School Visits and Events

Reception: Warwick Arts Centre Theatre Trip

On Monday 5th December 2016 Reception children went on a wonderful theatre trip to watch Scamp Theatre's delightful adaptation of Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's hugely popular children's book '*The Stick Man*'. The production was thoroughly enjoyable and packed full of puppetry, songs, live music and funky moves. The children were fully engaged from start to finish and all behaved exceptionally well. Well done to all of the children on their first trip in Reception and thank you to all the adults who helped us!

Years 3 & 4: Author Visit

On Friday 4th November the author Ciaran Murtagh came to school to deliver workshops to Years 3 and 4 on the themes of inspiration for writing and reading. We had a great afternoon immersing ourselves in his wonderful imagined worlds and stories through acting, word play and poetry. The children had a wonderful and thoroughly engaging time and their enthusiasm for developing their reading and writing was a joy to see.

Year 3: Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

On Wednesday 2nd November, Year 3 visited Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery for an Ancient Egyptian "Discovery Day." The children really enjoyed finding out all about the marvellous mummification process. This involved preparing a very patient mummy for the afterlife. In addition the children were fascinated to explore an abundance of Ancient Egyptian artefacts which encouraged them to imagine what life was like over 7000 years ago. We would like to thank our very special helpers who made it such a memorable day for Year 3.

Year 4: Roman Soldier Visit

On Thursday 3rd November, Year 4 were thrilled to find a Roman Solider in the classroom, complete with weapons, marching kit, stories from Rome and tales of fighting the Celts! We learnt how to be a soldier - the training, discipline, and organisation was imaginatively brought to life by several Year 4 students. We learnt how the Romans equipped themselves for battles and, rather alarmingly, we learnt about the Roman way of getting rid of their enemies effectively and efficiently! The children loved the gory and gruesome details. We looked at artefacts from Roman times and learnt how we have discovered so much about the Romans and then we explored how the Romans felt when they landed in Britain. The day ended with a battle on the playground between the Roman Army and the Celts. We had so much fun! The Roman Soldier really brought history to life for us and the children have reflected this enthusiasm in their history lessons. Best of all, the Roman Soldier was so complimentary about the behaviour, thoughtfulness and love of learning that Year 4 showed. We are so proud of them!

Years 5 & 6: Tennis Tournament

On Friday 4th November, Years 5 and 6 took part in a tennis tournament at Hampton Tennis Club. Sam Hiskett organised a round-robin of mini games in which children gained points for

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their team. They were also able to win bonus points for excellent play and sportsmanship. We had a thoroughly enjoyable day. Many thanks to Ian Poole and Sam Hiskett for organising this event.

Year 5: Greek Visitor

On Friday 25th November, Year 5 had an excellent day with our Greek visitor. The children were beautifully behaved and listened well. Our visitor provided a range 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 in the hall during the afternoon. The children enjoyed handling the spears and getting into a traditional fighting formation. This was followed by a game of Trojan dodge ball to finish off. Our visitor was very complimentary about the children's prior knowledge and their engagement in all the activities.

Year 6: Coventry Cathedral

On Tuesday 15th November, Year 6 took part in a Blitz Living History Day at Coventry Cathedral as part of our work on local history. The children were able to talk to characters from the time and find out what their experiences were. The children thoroughly enjoyed their day and we were complimented on the children's knowledge of WW2 - well done Year 6!

Year 6: Luncheon Club

Year 6 had a very busy week, as we also visited the Hampton Lunch Club on Wednesday 16th November to talk to its members about their experiences of WW2. The children found it fascinating talking with the older generation about what they did in the war.

Remembrance Day

Our school community joined together for a very special Remembrance Assembly on Friday 11th November. This is always a very important event in the school calendar and the children showed great empathy and respect during our service.

Church Service & Goodbye to Duncan

We held a very early Church Service this year where the children were encouraged to think carefully about Advent. Following the Service we celebrated with and thanked Duncan for all of his work and support with us during his time in Hampton-in-Arden. The children surprised him with a special song, a beautiful card which every class had contributed to and presented him with a carefully chosen rose called "Skylark" as a reminder of all of his work with the children in the village and beyond. We will miss Duncan greatly but wish him and Ellie the very best of luck in the future.

Book Fair

At George Fenthams 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 £526 worth of books was sold, enabling the school to choose approximately £200 of free books, shared across all classes.

Sports Newsletter - Autumn 2016

Please see our Autumn Term Sports Newsletter published on the school website, which also includes our spring term sports clubs.

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Charities

British Legion Poppy Appeal

During the beginning of November Poppies and related stationary were on sale in school. We have been advised by the British Legion they have received a whopping £337.36 collection from George Fenthams School, a big thank you for your support.

Children in Need Spotacular Day

George Fenthams went spotty for the "Great Spotacular" Children in Need on Friday 18th November! We raised a fantastic £230.00 in school from non-uniform day and Year 6 also contributed generously to BBC Radio WM's Tandem Bike Ride, which went through Hampton at lunchtime. Year 6 were delighted to cheer Richie Anderson on and meet Pudsey!

Thank you so much for your generous donations to our fund raising events so far this year, which have included Macmillan Cancer Support, Breast Cancer Now as well as The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal & Children in Need.

On-line Safety Committee & School Council Elections Results

Here are the results of formal elections for the positions of School Council and Online Safety representatives for each class. These are excellent ways for our children to contribute to the safety and development of our school.

Year	Online Safety Committee Election Results 2016	School Council Election Results 2016
Reception	Edward and Charlotte	Leo H-F and Anya
1	Lola and James	Harry and Frankie
2	Sam C and Ava	Braden and Reagan
3	Ben and Molly M	Matthew and Mia
4	Imogen and Oliver B	Jacob and Hattie
5	Ryan and Freya	Ryu and Annie
6	Ted and Hana	Lottie and Jack H

Christmas Chronicle Competition

Well done to all of the children who took part in this year's Chronicle competition. Below are the winners chosen from each class and overall first and second place. The children were thrilled to see their beautiful art work published.

Year	Winners
N	Dolly
R	Lydia
1	Eve
2	Alex - 2 nd place
3	Ben
4	Oliver
5	Freya - 1 st Place
6	Oliver - Christmas Card Design

School Meals - Outstanding Debt

As previously advised, the flexibility of the new system allows parents to choose which days they wish their child to have a school meal. However, 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

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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. Thank you for your support in this matter.

REMINDER: Requests for Leave of Absence 2016/2017

At George Fenthams we continue to encourage excellent attendance by all children. May we remind you that, 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. Thank you for your support in ensuring the very best attendance for your child.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: School Start Time

We would like to remind all parents that school starts at 8.55am for Reception to Year 6 children and 9.00am for Nursery children ONLY. The gate leading down to the playground is opened at 8.45am and closed at 8.55am. Any Reception to Year 6 child who arrives after 8.55am must be escorted, by parents/carer to the school office. You must ensure you take your child, in person, to the school office so that he/she can be signed in by a member of the office staff. You will be asked the reason for your child's lateness and this will be recorded on your child's registration record. We would ask you NOT to drop your child at the school gate or outside the school office as we have had a number of occasions where children have been left on their own outside of school. Clearly this is a safeguarding issue and can be very distressing for your child.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: End of School Day

At the end of the school day, all children are safely dismissed from the small playground by class teachers. If your child is going home with a different adult, it is critical that you inform school, otherwise we will need to contact you directly to obtain your permission. This can often be difficult and time consuming. Again, this system is in place to ensure the absolute safety of all of our children. Once children have been safely dismissed to you, we ask that they remain with you and are fully supervised. This enables us to accurately identify any child who has not been safely collected.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Supervision of Nursery Children before 9.00am

May we remind our Nursery parents that it is their responsibility to safely supervise their own children until the Nursery children enter the school building at 9.00am. Please ensure children do not climb on the steps at the back of the BASE building. Recently we have had a small number of occasions where Nursery children have entered school on their own and then run back out of the school gate looking for parents. On these occasions, school staff have intervened swiftly and helped the Nursery child to reunite with their parent. As always, our priority is to keep all children safe and we very much value your support in this matter.

And finally.....

On behalf of everyone at George Fenthams Endowed School, I wish you and your family a very enjoyable Christmas & New Year holiday and I look forward to welcoming the children back on **Tuesday 3rd January 2017**.

Mrs J Gaughan

Head Teacher

School website: www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk