

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 2 AUTUMN 2021**



December 2021

Term Dates	
SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	
	<u>2021/2022</u>
Autumn Term	Thursday 2 nd September 2021 - Friday 17 th December 2021
Half Term	Monday 25 th October 2021 - Friday 29 th October 2021
Spring Term	Tuesday 4 th January 2022 - Friday 8 th April 2022
Half Term	Monday 21 st February 2022 - Friday 25 th February 2022
Summer Term	Monday 25 th April 2022 - <u>Thursday 21st July 2022</u> - one day's holiday to be taken in place of the Queens Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday on Friday 22 nd July 2022 (the actual date of Friday 3 rd June 2022 is during the Summer half term holiday) May Bank Holiday: Monday 2 nd May 2022
Half Term	Monday 30 th May 2022 - Friday 3 rd June 2022
INSET DAYS	Monday 28th February 2022 & Monday 6th June 2022

Dates for Diary 2021-2022

2022

Sat 15 January	Reception Applications for September 2022 Closing Date
Wed 19 January	Reception - Vision Screening - School Nurses
Mon 31 January	Nursery Place September 2022 - Offer Day
Tue 1 March	Secondary School Offer Day
Wed 6 April 10.45am	Chance to Shine Assembly
Tue 19 April	Reception Place September 2022 - Offer Day
Mon 25 April pm	Chance to Shine Cricket Programme Y4 & Y5 starts
Wed 15 June am	Tempest Photography - Individual Photographs
Thur 30 - Fri 1 July	Solihull MBC Secondary School Transition Day
Wed 6 July	Y4 Chance to Shine Cricket Festival- Berkswell CC
Thur 7 July	Y5 Chance to Shine Cricket Festival- Berkswell CC

Christmas at George Fentham Endowed School 2021

Trim and Tree Evening Wednesday 1st December:

A huge thank you to all of our staff who stayed late to add Christmas sparkle throughout school. The children came in full of excitement on the Thursday morning knowing that Christmas had arrived!

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Outdoor Christmas Carol Concert for Parents/Carers 10th December

EYFS/KS1 9.30am & KS2 2:30pm

We were delighted to welcome so many visitors to our Carol Concerts last week. It was such a lovely opportunity for children to perform and for parents to share this experience. Whilst we had beautiful blue sky and sunshine in the morning, the afternoon was a huge contrast. The rain started just as we went out and meant that we had to cut short what we had planned. However, we were so incredibly proud of our children who simply carried on and adapted. They showed real resilience!

Christmas Lunch & Christmas Hat Competition Wednesday 14th December:



On Tuesday 14th December children and staff all enjoyed our Christmas lunch. 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	Winners
Reception	Ronnie Clive, Ezra & Georgia
1	Kaiden, Erin & Rosa
2	Sam & Auriana
3	Joshua
4	Dolly, Finley & Joe
5	Clark & Edward
6	Lexi & Harry

Well done to all those children who took part!

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Visit to Church Wednesday 15th December:

After two years, we were once again able to take our children to Church to celebrate Christmas. As a fully inclusive school, we welcome children and families of all faiths and of no faith, to share this experience. Church was filled with beautiful singing and congratulations to our readers who shared the story of "The Cat in the Manger" by Michael Foreman. A huge thank you to all of our parent volunteers who accompanied us.

Christmas Movie & Cookies Wednesday 15th December pm:

On Wednesday afternoon, our children really enjoyed their Christmas movie along with a chocolate drink and cookie. After such a busy term this was a well-deserved treat!

Special Visitor Friday 17th December:

At the time of writing this letter, we are keeping everything crossed that a very special visitor pops in to see us all on Friday!



COVID - 19 Update and Remote Learning

As we finish for the Christmas break and look forward to spending time with family and friends, we are very aware that COVID-19 cases are rising significantly and are having a huge impact nationally. After a very challenging first half term, we have been fortunate during this second half term that there has been minimum disruption to school and to our children's education. This is as a direct result of the measures in place in school and the vigilance and cooperation of our families.

Whilst we are fully expecting to reopen in January to all pupils, we, like you, are looking to see what decisions are taken by Government over the Christmas period. Please be reassured that we

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will share any updates with you via Parent Pay or through the School website at our earliest opportunity.

With this in mind, could we please ask all parents to make sure that they have access to their children's log in details for both Microsoft TEAMS and Purple Mash. These are the two platforms we will use for providing Remote Learning, in the event of any closures or periods of self-isolation. The children will have brought these details home again this week and we have also emailed out the Parent Guide, providing details of how to access both platforms etc. We sincerely hope that we do not need to use this provision, but want to be well prepared should things change in the future. Thank you for your on-going support in this matter.

Staffing Update

Next term we look forward to welcoming Mrs Collins, our new Teaching Assistant, to George Fentham Endowed School. Mrs Collins will be working with a range of classes to provide support and to work with intervention groups.

Nursery and Reception Admissions September 2022

Reception Admissions September 2022: Applications for a Reception place for your child from September 2022 should be made through your Local Authority. **The closing date is 15th January 2022.** Please see the Admissions page on our school website for further details.

Class Events

Nursery:

Nursery children have thoroughly enjoyed the run-up to Christmas; they found out about the first Christmas and explored Christmas traditions. They have been very busy playing in the Santa's Workshop role play area and looking after baby Jesus in the stable. They also loved decorating the class Christmas tree, making cards and doing a variety of craft activities. Having a sprinkling of snow to explore at the end of November was an unexpected bonus!

Mrs Durkin

Reception:

Dinosaur Day

The Reception children really 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! During the day the children made dinosaur heads and tails, which they wore proudly during the day! We had a dinosaur menu at lunchtime which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. A celebration wouldn't be complete without a few Dinosaur party games to enjoy too!

Mrs Brown

Year 1:

We have had a super half term in Year 1. The children have been really absorbed in all of their learning, from exploring the life of William Shakespeare in History, to investigating the properties of materials in Science.

This half term in English we have been focusing on instructions and recounts. We have read 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth' and 'Mog's Christmas Calamity'. The children have really enjoyed these books and have produced some outstanding writing, we are so proud of what they have achieved.

Year One have been very creative this half term; they have made finger puppet mammoths linked to our English work and have also really enjoyed getting into the festive spirit, making their very own Christingle. We have also had a very special visitor since the 1st December, Pippin the Elf, who has been up to all sorts of mischief. Luckily, Year 1 have been setting a super example to him with their superb behaviour!

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From all of the teachers in Year 1, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming the children back for another exciting term in the Spring, where we will be learning all about 'Amazing Africa'.

Mrs Salmon and Mrs Barratt

Year 3:

Year 3 have had a fantastic term. We are particularly excited about starting our swimming next term at the XL Centre in Coventry. Please look out for further correspondence regarding this.

In Design Technology we have been designing and making a sandwich bag for Paddington to keep his marmalade sandwiches safe. We have developed our sewing skills and have perfected a blanket stitch to join material together. We had to use our BLP skills when tackling these new skills, we persevered and showed resilience when things didn't quite go to plan first time!

Mrs Hodge

Year 4:

Strings

Year 4 have continued their weekly strings lessons and have progressed to use bows in their pieces. There is so much to learn, and the children are amazed at how quickly their skills are developing. Well done Year 4 - what a musical and creative class you are!

Mrs Brooker and Mrs Briggs

Year 5:

Over the course of this half term, Year 5 have been tasting, evaluating and designing their own biscuits. We looked at the ingredients of different manufacturers and considered why they might include certain ingredients, such as vitamins (to make them appear healthier) or colouring (to make them look more enticing). All children in the class were fantastic at adapting a basic biscuit recipe and fulfilling their brief to design a Christmas biscuit, carefully planning out and drawing their final designs before making them in school. We were very impressed with how organised the children were and also how flexible and calm they were in adapting their recipes if things didn't quite go to plan. All children in the class ended up with a fabulous biscuit as a result. We are very proud of you Year 5 and hope that you enjoyed eating them as much as we enjoyed making them with you! Well done.



Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Kermodé

Year 6:

Year 6 have had a very busy second half of the autumn term. The children have really enjoyed reading "Goodnight Mister Tom" and doing lots of different reading and writing activities linked to it. We have also been studying WW2 in history and have found out all about the Coventry Blitz, evacuation and Hampton-in-Arden in WW2. Our singing in music has also been linked to WW2, including learning "We'll meet again." Another highlight for the children has been making Ferris Wheels from the K'nex construction kit; this can then be controlled using the computer. We are now enjoying some Christmas activities, including learning all about Christmas in France. The

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children have worked so hard this half term and Mrs Edmeades, Miss Timothy and Mrs Kelly are very proud of them!

Mrs Edmeades and Miss Timothy

GFES Football Team

After almost 2 years without any competitive sport at George Fentham, it was fantastic to finally be able to play against another school in the Solihull Small School's League. After dominating possession and having at least 8 chances (I know every manager says this, but is genuinely no exaggeration), but just being unable to convert one of them we conceded a late goal to lose 1 - 0 to Meriden. Even their coach said "I'm not entirely sure how we've won that?! You could, and should, have won 4-0!" I was so proud of the team and know that if we can maintain the great start we've made, after a few more training sessions we will start winning. Well done all.

Mr Bass

School Council Elections

At George Fentham, we try to make sure that the children begin to learn about, and understand, the way that the world around them works. This includes the 'rule of law' and 'democracy'. As part of this, we hold 'elections' every autumn, voting for 2 representatives in each class for our 'School Council, Eco Council & Online Safety Committee'. These children, along with the adults supporting them, then work throughout the year to try and improve identified areas of school life, the environment and how to keep us safe online. We look forward to hearing all about their work throughout the coming year.

Mr Bass

Eco- Council Update

Our Eco-Councillors have hit the ground running and have already been extremely busy finding out about the *Schools Green Flag Award*, which is a local initiative open to all Solihull schools. The councillors are keen that we work towards this during the school year, with a view to achieving the highest level of award that we possibly can. Already, our Year 6 councillors have been investigating how effective our class paper-recycling is so that we can make sure that we are recycling as much as possible, and all the children have been thinking about other ideas for how the school can play its part in becoming more eco-friendly.

The Eco-Councillors have also helped to organise a combined eco/science competition where children have been asked to design a new eco-friendly sleigh for Santa.

It is so rewarding seeing our children so motivated towards doing what they can do to combat climate change.

Mrs Briggs

Online Extra Science Provision

Always looking at how we can improve our science offering at George Fentham, last half term our Science Coordinator trialled providing additional fun science for our KS2 children to attempt at home. Every week, there is a topical science newsletter and some investigations posted onto Purple Mash and, from feedback received so far, this has proven very popular.

For the Christmas holidays, a bumper pack of science investigations will be posted for our budding scientists. Although this has been aimed at KS2 children, any child can join in the fun by logging onto their Purple Mash accounts.

Mrs Briggs

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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 £500 worth of books was sold, enabling the school to choose approx. £250 of free books, shared across all classes.

Mrs Brooker

Year 2 Infant Agility Trip and Year 6 Sports Leaders - 26th November 2021

Year 2 Infant Agility Trip

This half term Year 2 were lucky enough to go out on their first trip since before COVID-19. As part of the Solihull Sports Partnership, we were invited to be part of an Agility Festival at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre. Children participated in 5 events: Bouncer, Jumper, Thrower, Pitcher and Runner, working hard to improve their own performance each time and contributing to a class team total. As part of this, we had a group of Year 6 Sports Leaders with us. They had to lead one of the events and did a brilliant job, showing clear leadership skills and encouraging every child. All of the children were FAB-U-LOUS and we are pleased to say that we came 3rd on our day.

Mr Bass

Year 6 Sports Leaders

Six children from Year 6 were selected to be Sports Leaders. Their first job was to help run the Infant Agility Festival at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre. They had to take part in training and then accompany Year 2 during the festival. The organisers of the festival complimented them on their maturity and manners, they were brilliant ambassadors for our school. Well done. Here are some of their comments:

- 'We were taking care of the little ones and counting their score. I felt really responsible.'
- 'When we got there we had to get the activity ready and make sure they cheered each other on. It was great to be a leader, showing the little ones what to do.'
- 'We had to make sure they understood what to do. It was a privilege to take part.'
- 'It is great to work with younger people and encourage them to do sport. I felt responsible and proud to play a part in making the festival go ahead.'
- 'It makes you feel good that you are helping the little ones to be sporty.'
- 'It was a good opportunity to spend time with and help the younger children, as we have not had much opportunity to things like this. It was just great fun for everyone.'

Mrs Bradburn

Autumn 2021 Clubs & Music Lessons

Day	During the school day	After-school
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Strings Lessons Wider Opportunities - Y4 Strings	
Thursday	Woodwind	3.20-4.20 pm Year 3 Sports Club
Friday	Keyboard & Guitars	3.20-4.20 pm Year 4 Sports Club

Spring Term - Mondays: Jet Dance After School Club-more info to follow.

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Anti-Bullying Week 2021: One Kind Word

Week commencing 15th November was national Anti-bullying week. We launched the week with 'Odd Socks' day to show that we are all unique and different. Over the week each class took part in anti-bullying related JIGSAW and Anti-Bullying Alliance activities.

A key part of the week was reinforcing the definition of bullying and prevention strategies. At George Fentham, we define bullying as: Behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally (and that this is different to an occasional falling out with friends).

To help children understand this we use the **STOP** message

Bullying is.....	What to do.....
S everal	S tart
T imes	T elling
O n	O ther
P urpose	P eople

We are currently in the process of reviewing our whole school Behaviour Policy. If any parents/carers would be interested in joining a working party to support with this, please contact Mrs Morris via the school office. Thank you.

Mrs Morris

Children in Need

Friday 19th November 2021 was Children in Need Day. At George Fentham, we love to support this valuable charity which works with children & young people across the country. Children came into school in non-uniform and made a donation towards Children in Need. The school kitchen made Pudsey biscuits & cupcakes for the children having a school meal on that day.

The total raised was **£368.50** Thank you for all of your support!

Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2021 Poppy Appeal. Together we raised £185.71.

Chronicle Christmas Cover Competition

This year the theme for the Christmas Chronicle Cover Competition was "Visitors to the Stable". 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. Thank you and well done to everyone who took part!

The winning designs were:

Chronicle Christmas Cover

1st Prize Charlie (Year 5)

2nd Prize Amba (Year 2)

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Runners Up

Elizabeth (Nursery)

Logan (Reception),

Joshua (Year 2),

Fergus (Year 5)

Lola (Year 6)

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 2021-22. 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 currently £2.20 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.

PTFA Update

Please see the message below from our PTFA. We are extremely grateful for their on-going support. We ensure that all money raised benefits as many children throughout the school as possible.

And finally.....

On behalf of everyone at George Fentham Endowed School, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe, peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Tuesday 4th January 2022.**

Mrs J Gaughan
Headteacher



MESSAGE FROM OUR PTFA

2021 has of course still been a difficult year for fund raising with the pandemic, and as you can imagine it's made our usual events/activities difficult to almost impossible to do. This means our fundraising has been again limited but we have still been able to make some fantastic contributions to the school and children of George Fentham. This year we have:

- Donated £4000 towards the school Covid-19 catchup plan.
- Supplied all children in Yr6 with Leavers' Hoodies

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- Provided a beautiful Christmas tree for the hall and a small present for each child at Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our recent Christmas fund raising projects - whether it was donating chocolate and wine for the tombola, visiting our stall at the village Christmas Light's Switch on, buying your children's Christmas cards or participating in The Big PTA Raffle. In total, we have raised £918!

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation so far... however, you can still send a donation anytime to:

George Fentham Endowed School PTA
38933470
54-30-35

We hope, with all your support that we will be able continue this level of contribution next year and here are a few easy ways you can support the PTFA:

- Join <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/gfeschoolptfa/> and help us raise money by simply shopping online.
- 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 quoting the school ID: 26751 - we will receive 20% of your order.
- Rejoin the 100 Club for next year - more information to follow in the New Year...

The PTFA's success is dependent on your continued support. As we mentioned in our previous newsletter update our current Chair, Rhona Cloke, will be stepping down as she will no longer have any children at GFES by the end of the school year. However, to ensure a smooth transition we are looking for a new Chairperson to hand over the reins to by Easter. We would like to appeal to all parents to consider volunteering for this extremely rewarding role. We are also in need of new committee members, parent supporters and occasional helpers and would encourage everyone to consider joining the team and seeing how you can make a difference by raising some much-needed funds and coordinating events for our children to enjoy.

If you would like to get more involved, any help big or small is appreciated, please contact us: gfptfa@gmail.com. Or just turn up at our next meeting after Christmas.

Date of the next meeting: TBC via class WhatsApp groups

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

<http://www.georgefenthamppta.co.uk/>



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