

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 2 - SPRING 2016**

March 2016

Term Dates	
SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	<u>2015/16</u>
Spring Term	
	Mon 22 February - Wednesday 23 March 2016
Summer Term	Mon 11 April 2016 - Fri 27 May 2016 <i>May Day Bank Holiday Mon 2 May 2016</i>
Half Term	Mon 30 May 2016 - Fri 3 June 2016
	Mon 6 June 2016 - Fri 22 July 2016
	<u>Inset Days 2015/16: Monday 6 June 2016</u>
	<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>Inset Days 2016/2017: To be advised</u>

Dates for Diary

----2016 ---

Wed 23 March am	Easter Church Service
Tue 12 April am	Y5 Cricket Coaching starts
Tue 12 April pm	Y6 Tag Rugby Coaching starts
Thur 14 April pm	Solihull Cup Girls Football - Quarter Final - Kinghurst v GFS
Fri 22 April am	Author Visit - Barbara Spencer
Thur 28 April am	Years 3/4 Maths AG & T Event at Bentley Heath
Fri 15 April 10.30-12.00	Nursery Phonics Inspire Workshop
Thur 28 April	Y3/4 AG & T Maths Event at Bentley Heath School
Mon 9 May - Fri 13 May	Y6 Assessment Week
Wed 18 May	Y5 Cricket Festival at Berkswell C.C
Thur 26 May 9.30-2.30	Y5/6 Tag Rugby Exiles Rugby Club
Tue 14 June	Nursery Trip to Umberslade Farm
Wed 15 June am	Tempest Class Photos
Mon 20 - Fri 24 June	Y5 Bikeability
Mon 20 - Fri 24 June	Y6 Residential to Condover Hall
Tue 28 June am	Reception Theatre Trip - Warwick Arts Centre
Thur 30 June am	Year 1 AG & T Art Event at Knowle School
Tue 5 July 11.15	Y6 Leavers Service :St Martins-in-the Bull Ring
Wed 6 July 10.00-2.00	Y4 Cricket Festival at Berkswell CC
Fri 22 July am	Y6 Leavers Service at Church

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Spring 2 2016 - Clubs

Day	Lunchtime	After-school
Monday		Football Club
Tuesday	Guitar Lessons	3.20.-4.05 KS2 Cricket/Rounders Club (Hampton Sports Club)
Wednesday	12.45-1.15 Y1 & 2 Tennis Club (Hampton Sports Club) Strings Lessons Spanish Lessons	3.20-4.45 Learning Curves
Thursday	12.30-1.00 Keyboard Lessons	
Friday	12.50-1.15 KS2 Netball Club	

School Building Updates

We are delighted with the results of our entrance refurbishment, which took place over half term. The entrance to school is now even safer, with two controlled doors to access the main building rather than one. Feedback from children, parents and staff has been excellent.

In addition, you may also have noticed a small gate which has now been fitted at the front of school. This now gives direct access to the school bus or coaches booked for school trips. Again this enhances the safety of our school site with children now able to board directly from the school gate rather than queuing on the narrow pavement outside of school.

REMINDER: Parents are asked not to drive in through the school gates, at any time, in order to keep both children and staff safe.

School Visits and Events

Year 1

Jungle Explorer Day

On Monday 14th March, Year 1 took part in a "Jungle Explorer Day". All children came to school dressed as explorers ready to learn amazing facts about the African rainforest. Children were given opportunities to find out about all the different animals that live in the different parts of the rainforest. They were given special explorer badges and folders to help fire their imagination. The children were really creative in their learning, resulting in them making their very own jungles and pet snakes! A fun day was had by all!

Animal Lady

On Tuesday 22nd March, the children had the chance to meet Gill "The Animal Lady". She brought in to school a selection of animals native to Africa. The class had the pleasure of being introduced to a rock python, a pygmy hedgehog, an owl and a meerkat. We think the animals enjoyed meeting us too!

Year 2

Thorntons

As part of our learning on the "Celebration and Symbols of Easter" Year 2 went to Derby to see Easter Eggs being made in the Thorntons Chocolate factory. The staff at the factory took us to the production

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lines where we saw the Easter Eggs, Turkish delight, toffee and many other chocolates being made. We learnt about the machines, the safety procedures and the packing/distribution aspects of chocolate production. The children had a tremendous day. Their behaviour, interest and enthusiasm made Mrs Brooker so proud.

Year 4

Church Visit

On Tuesday 15th March Year 4 visited the Parish Church of St. Mary & St. Bartholomew in Hampton in Arden to learn more about the stained glass windows and icons. We met Rev. Duncan Ballard at the church and he told us all about the history of the windows, their symbolism and meanings. One of the best parts was trying to work out what the Latin and French meant!

Year 5

Rainforest Roadshow

Year 5 had a fabulous time on Friday 4th March when the 'Rainforest Roadshow' visited their classroom. Dave Shaw amused them with entertaining stories about his encounters with rainforest life, and he brought in animals for them to watch and hold. The children also tasted food typically eaten by tribes in the Amazon rainforests and had their faces painted in tribal patterns. The day was a brilliant and fun way to learn interesting facts about rainforests and to raise children's awareness of important conservation work.

Year 6

Bollywood Dance Workshop:

On 22nd February, Year 6 experienced a morning of Bollywood dance from Bollywood Dreams Dance School linked to our "India" topic. A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all (including Mrs Edmeades and Miss de Luca!) and we had a great workout! We learnt many key movements and the five hand positions of Bollywood dance. Thank you to Reena who ran the workshop.

Year 6 Church visit:

Year 6 were welcomed to church by Rev. Duncan Ballard on Thursday 25th February. This visit linked to our RE work on "Memories" and the children were amazed by all the different ways people are remembered in and around the church. Many thanks to Duncan for his wealth of information!

Year 6 visit to the National Memorial Arboretum:

Also in connection with our RE "Memories" topic, Year 6 visited the National Memorial Arboretum on 8th March. We studied a wide variety of memorials including the "Garden of Innocence" and the Royal Air Force Memorial. The children were beautifully behaved and we were complimented on their lovely manners! We thoroughly enjoyed our visit despite the chilly day!

World Book Day:

Thank you for your extraordinary efforts getting the children dressed up for World Book Day. The children looked amazing and it was a delight to see them so excited about their reading. The afternoon was finished off with story time across the school which included a re-enactment of a Harry Potter scene, performance poetry and a retelling of classic children books. What an amazing day!

AG&T Debating Event

On Wednesday 24th February, George Fentham hosted a Year 5 enrichment debating workshop for Rural South Solihull schools. Three representatives from each school were given the opportunity to develop public speaking, persuasive language, summarising and questioning skills. Taking on the role of an influential famous person, the children were given the task of persuading others to allow them to leave a desert island on the last remaining boat. The George Fentham representatives, adopting the role of Charles Darwin, argued their case extremely eloquently and demonstrated excellent team work skills, but were unfortunately defeated by Florence Nightingale. There are further planned opportunities for different year groups to visit collaborative schools this academic year to take part in Science, Art and Maths enrichment workshops.

Sports Events - Spring 2016

Further information on all sporting events for the spring term is now available in the **Spring Sport Newsletter**. Please find this on our school website.

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Sports Relief - Non uniform

Thank you for your support in raising £206.00 for Sports Relief. Details are included in our **Sport Newsletter**.

Assemblies

A reminder that we have now planned our **Class Assemblies** for the rest of this academic year. Please find the dates in the table below. On very rare occasions we may need to change dates but will ensure you are informed of this at the very earliest opportunity.

Year	Date
Reception	Monday 20 th June 2016
1	Monday 23 rd May 2016
2	Friday 8 th July 2016
3	Fri 13 th May 2016
4	Fri 29 th April 2016
5	Mon 21 st March 2016
6	Wednesday 20 th July 2016
Y6 Leavers Service	Friday 22 nd July at Hampton Parish Church

Year 5

Year 5 performed their class assembly 'Pandora's Box' on Monday 21st March. They had great fun learning about this famous Greek myth through acting, dancing and singing and thoroughly enjoyed a chance to perform in front of parents, children and staff!

Commonwealth Day

"Flying the Flag for the Commonwealth" Competition:

Following an inspiring assembly by Mrs Edmeades, children were invited to enter a competition. Over 60 children submitted an entry and from that 12 were chosen and sent to be judged, along with top entries from other schools, by the Mayor of Solihull. We were thrilled to receive a call from the Mayor's office to say that Georgia Norris, Y5, had been awarded first place. As a result we were delighted to receive a visit from Councillor Glenis Slater, the Mayor of Solihull on Friday 11th March. There was great excitement in school as this was also our Book day and our children came dressed to school as a favourite book character. The Mayor announced Georgia as the competition winner and invited her, with her parents and a school representative to the Civic Suite to take a starring role and raise the flag on Commonwealth Day. We were made to feel extremely welcome and lots of photographs were taken which may be included in the Solihull News / Arden Observer.



Health Week

George Fentham School enjoyed another whole school 'Health Week' from 29th February to 4th March. During the week, children had opportunities to take part in a wide range of cross-curricular activities in order to encourage them to make healthy lifestyle choices. These included a session on the 'Life Bus', a

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football skills workshop, first aid training and a fruit tuck shop at break time. Our thanks to the Fentham Trust for funding the 'Life Bus' again this year.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Thank you to everyone who attended Parent Consultation evenings last week. It is always a real pleasure to share the fantastic progress our children are making and for parents to look at the work from this term. Your on-going support is very much appreciated. May we remind you that should you have any concerns, at any point in the year, you are most welcome to speak directly with your child's class teacher or Mrs Gaughan.

Supervision of Children at the start of the school day

May we remind you that parents are responsible for supervising their Nursery children on the small playground until the children enter school at 9.00am. We would ask that children are not allowed to climb the steps outside Base or run around unsupervised. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Nursery Car Park

The Nursery car park is for the use of Nursery parents only between the times of 8.30am and 9.30am. Parents of older children are asked to use the car park at Fentham Hall or the Church Hall and walk their children to school.

As always, we ask for your support in keeping all of our children and families safe on their journey to and from school. **May I remind you that the car park is not owned by George Fentham School but by the Fentham Trust. Any concerns should be addressed to Malcom James, via the Fentham Trust.**

Head Lice

We are aware that head lice can be a problem for people of all ages and not just children. It is vitally important, therefore, that you check your child's hair and scalp weekly. If you suspect infection with head lice we would ask that every possible measure is taken to treat your child immediately. Advice can be sought from a local pharmacist. Please inform the school that treatment has been carried out.

Whilst the prime responsibility for the identification, treatment and prevention of head lice is the responsibility of the parent, there may be occasions when head lice are suspected during the school day. In this situation our aim is to minimise any embarrassment or discomfort to your child and to reduce the risk of infection to other members of the school community. We will make all reasonable efforts to contact you directly and ask you to check your child's hair and take the necessary action. In addition we will send home a letter to all parents in the affected class asking them to be highly vigilant.

In the rare situation of resistant or complex cases, further advice from the school nurse will be sought.

Should you have any concerns regarding this matter please speak with your child's class teacher, a member of the office staff or Mrs Gaughan. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Contact Numbers and Medication

Please let the school office know if there are any changes to your contact telephone numbers. It can be very distressing for your child if he / she is taken ill and we are unable to contact you quickly. To enable the school office to administer and supervise use of medicines, inhalers, epi-pens etc a consent form **must** be completed. Please note it is your responsibility to ensure any medication left in school is in date.

Illness / Sickness

We continue to do all that we can to reduce the spread of illness and infections in school. The advice from the Solihull School Nurse Team, regarding sickness and diarrhoea, is that your child stays off school for at least **48 hours after** the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea and does not return to school until they are feeling fit and well along with eating and drinking normally.

Please inform the school office between **8.30 and 9.00am** if your child is unable to attend school as every absence must be accounted for and is carefully monitored. Messages can be left on the absence line at any time before this, please press **option 1**, **clearly & slowly** stating your child's name, class and the reason for absence.

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Break-time Snacks

Please support our healthy snack time by sending in **pure, fresh or dried fruit and vegetables only**. Children have access to drinking fountains and water bottles during the day and are regularly encouraged and 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.

Use of Mobile Phones/Devices

Our "Use of Mobile Phone/Devices Policy" has been recently reviewed and updated by staff and governors. There is a copy on our website for your information. In order to keep our children safe we must insist that parents do not use their mobile phones/devices on school premises or when accompanying children on school outings. In the case of school productions, parents/careers are currently permitted to take photographs of their own children, in accordance with school protocols. We ask that these photographs are taken of your own children, for your own personal use and are not published on social networking sites.

And Finally.....

We hope you have a restful and enjoyable Easter break and we very much look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 11th April 2016 at 8.55am.

Mrs J Gaughan
Head Teacher

School website: www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk

Please support eleven "Hampton Girls" as they cycle 100 km through London on 28th May to raise money for three amazing charities. You will notice several GFES mums amongst the names!



Anita Watson, Clare Scott, Jo Wright, Hayley Berryman, Sarah Smyth, Kirstie Haywood, Lorraine Malcolm, Judith Williams, Rachael Brown, Juliet Mian and Deborah Jones have all ditched the stabilisers, donned the Lycra and started their training in earnest.

If you would like to make a donation please visit

<https://www.justgiving.com/hamptongirls>