

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 2 SPRING 2017**

April 2017

Term Dates	
SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	<u>2016/2017</u>
Spring Term	Tue 3 January 2017 - Fri 17 February 2017
Half Term	Mon 20 February 2017 - Fri 24 February 2017
	Mon 27 February 2017 - 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 Day 2016/2017:</u> Monday 5 June 2017
	<u>2017/2018</u>
Autumn Term	Mon 4 September 2017 - Fri 20 October 2017
Half Term	Mon 30 October 2017 - Fri 27 October 2017
	Mon 30 October 2018 - Tuesday 19 December 2017
Spring Term	Wed 3 January 2018 - Fri 16 February 2018
Half Term	Mon 19 February 2018 - Fri 23 February 2018
	Mon 26 February 2018 - Thur 29 March 2018
Summer Term	Mon 16 April 2018 - Fri 25 May 2018 <i>May Day Bank Holiday Mon 7 May 2018</i>
Half Term	Mon 28 May 2018 - Fri 1 June 2018
	Mon 4 June 2018 - Tue 24 July 2018
	Inset Days 2017/2018 : To be advised

Dates for Diary

----2017 ---

Wed 1 March	Secondary 2017 offers out
Thur 2 March	World Book Day
Thur 2 March	Year 6 Bollywood Dance Workshop
Tue 7 March	Y1 Explorer Day & Animal Lady Visit
Wed 8 March	YR & Y1 Dental Survey
Thur 9 March	Year 5 Rainforest Roadshow
Mon 13 March	Flying the Flag for The Commonwealth Day
Tue 14 March pm	Reception Dance Festival at Alderbrook School
Thur 16 March	Year 6 visit to the National Memorial Arboretum
Thur 23 March 4.00-5.30pm	Basketball League at St Peter's School
Fri 24 March	Year 5 Assembly
Fri 24 March	Nursery - Mother's Day Celebration
Fri 24 March	Red Nose Day
Mon 27- Fri 31 March	Health Week
Mon 27 March	Life Bus Day 1

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 2 SPRING 2017**

Tue 28 March	Life Bus Day 2
Tue 28 March	Parent Consultations
Wed 29 March	Parent Consultations
Wed 5 April	Year 1 Assembly
Wed 5 April	Nursery Phonics Workshop
Fri 7 April	Easter Service at Church
Sat 15 April	Reception 2017 offers out
Tue 2 May	Year 4 Cricket Coaching starts
Fri 5 May	Year 4 Assembly
Mon 8 May - Fri 12 May	Y6 Assessment Week
Tue 16 May	Year 1 to visit Toy Museum at Sudbury Hall
Fri 19 May	Year 3 Assembly
Mon 22 May	Year 4 to "Strings Explosion" Warwick Arts Centre
Thur 25 May	Tempest Photography - Class Photos
Wed 7 June	Y6 Tag Rugby Tournament
Tue 13 June am	Reception: National Measurement Programme
Wed 14 June	Nursery visit to Umberslade Farm
Fri 16 June	Year 2 Assembly
Mon 19 - Fri 23 June	Year 6 Condover Hall residential visit
Mon 19 June am	Year 5 to Solihull School - "Solihull Sings" Concert
Fri 30 June	Reception Assembly
$\frac{3}{4}$ July (TBC)	Year 6 Leavers' Service Birmingham
Wed 5 July am	Year 1 visit to Pizza Express, Resorts World, NEC
Wed 5 July	Year 4 Cricket Festival
Thur 6 July	Year 5 Cricket Festival
Mon 10- Fri 14 July pm session	Year 5 Bikeability
Fri 21 July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly
Tue 25 July	Year 6 Leavers' Church Service

Staff Update

As you may have been aware, both Mrs Hansford and Mrs Chislett who both work in the school office have been off school for a number of weeks. We look forward to them returning and continue to send them our very best wishes. As a result Mrs Kelly stepped in immediately to provide on-going support and cover. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her excellent work in ensuring the smooth and efficient day-to-day running of the school office.

New School Uniform

A reminder regarding the introduction of new school uniform with shirts and ties for our Key Stage 2 children from 1st September 2017. The children are already very excited and looking forward to the change. Please be advised that all uniform should now be purchased from:

PALMERS, 1640 HIGH STREET, KNOWLE. B93 0NA TELEPHONE: 01564 776590

Parent Consultation Meetings

Thank you to everyone who attended Parent Consultations on 28th & 29th March. As always this is an excellent opportunity to share information on your child's progress this year. In addition we received excellent feedback regarding the introduction, from September 2017, of shirts and ties in Key Stage 2. We will send out further reminders in the summer term.

School Visits and Events

Nursery Phonics Workshop:

During the last week of term, Nursery parents were invited into school for an Inspire Workshop on Phonics. After a presentation on phonics teaching in school, and information on supporting phonic development at home, parents spent an hour working with their children. A wide variety of phonics games and activities were available in the classroom and outdoor area and staff were on hand to offer advice.

Nursery Mother's Day Celebration

On Friday 24th March, Nursery mothers were invited into the classroom to hear the children sing a range of songs they have been singing to support their learning as well as a special 'thank you' song for Mother's Day. The children presented their mums with daffodils and a special card they had made.

Reception Dance Festival:

On Tuesday 14th March 2017 Reception took part in the South Solihull Dance Festival at Alderbrook School. After 6 weeks of dance training the children were ready to showcase their newly developed dance moves. They performed their 'Teamwork' dance to other boys and girls, including secondary school children and parents. They were extremely well behaved, representing the school with great enthusiasm. Well done Reception!

Year 1 Explorer Day & Animal Lady:

On Tuesday 7th March Year 1 had an "Explorer Day" to learn all about Africa and the animals who live there. We welcomed some very special visitors into class... a baby rock python, an African pigmy hedgehog, a barn owl, a tortoise and a very naughty falcon! Great fun was had by all and it really kick-started our learning this term.

Zara: "The tortoise had a rock hard house." Samuel: "It was exciting!" Harry: "The baby rock python was amazing!" Bobby: "I liked the owl because it was so fluffy." Joseph: " We learned lots!"

Year 2:

Year 2 have had great fun this term learning about the plague in history, building their own vehicles in D & T, developing their understanding of 'commitment and sacrifice' through researching different religions in RE and exploring input and output devices in Computing.

Year 3 Swimming:

During the autumn and spring terms our Y3 children have been working towards achieving their 25m swimming National Curriculum standard. Every Tuesday, ably assisted by our parent helpers, the children have attended North Solihull Swimming Baths. From when we started last September the children have shown wonderful resilience and perseverance in the pursuit of the 25m standard. All of the children deserve enormous credit as they have consistently been singled out by the swimming coaches for their exemplary manners and attitude to learning. Well done Year 3!

Year 4:

Year 4 children have had the opportunity to take part in a series of dance and movement sessions run in partnership with a dance company. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and have been able to develop a range of movement skills which they have been able to put into an amazing sequence. Their endeavours will be integrated into a stunning performance of music and dance to be scheduled at a later date! Details to follow.

GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 2 SPRING 2017

Y5 Rainforest Man:

Year 5 had a fabulous time on Thursday 9th March when the 'Rainforest Roadshow' visited their classroom. Dave Shaw amused them with entertaining stories about his encounters with rainforest life and brought in animals for them to watch and hold such as a Mexican red legged tarantula and a milk snake. The children also tasted food typically eaten by tribes in the Amazon rainforests, including the unusual durian fruit and had their faces or hands painted in tribal patterns. The day was a brilliant and fun way to learn interesting facts about rainforests and to raise the children's awareness of important conservation work.

Year 6 National Memorial Arboretum Visit:

On Thursday 16th March, Year 6 went to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. This was linked with our RE topic on "Memories and Memorials" and also linked back to our work in history, in the autumn term, on WW1 and WW2. The children were beautifully behaved and enjoyed looking at the symbolism in a variety of different memorials.

World Book Day 2017:

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. What an amazing day!

Book Club:

This term we have introduced Book Club meetings for Years 4, 5 and 6. Between us, we are reading a great variety of books from fantasy to mystery and even some horror! Mrs Brooker is enjoying sitting with the children and reading her books too - what a treat! We have been joined by other members of staff, notably Mrs Chamberlain who has become our latest recruit. It has been brilliant to see children so totally absorbed in their reading. Due to popular demand, Book Club will be running again next term and Mrs Brooker will be sending a letter out asking for our George Fentham Year 4, 5 and 6 Bookworms to sign up once again.

Key Stage 2 Choir:

This half term, Mrs Kermode has been impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm of all children involved in Junior Choir. The children turned up each week with open minds and a marvellous sense of fun. They have been learning a variety of warm-ups including a scat song called "Scoo-Be-Doo", an enjoyable song from "Matilda The Musical" and preparing for a rendition of "Easter Jubilation" in the Church Service at the end of term. Well done and thank you for all your hard work.

Year 5 Art Club:

Over this half term ten Y5 children have been attending lunchtime Art Club which has focussed on developing and improving their modelling skills. Starting with a simple clay egg the children were successful in turning it into a penguin! They went on to create owls out of a thumb pot and pigs using two thumb pots. The children were very pleased with their menagerie and very much look forward to adding to their clay skills in the future. A huge thank you to Mrs Pugh for her work with this group.

Church Service:

On the last day of term we will be taking the children to Church for our Easter Service. This is always a special visit and the children really look forward to going.

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 2 SPRING 2017**

Online safety

Following our Online Safety week earlier this term, the committee have been looking at the school policy, how we can more effectively engage with parents and the community to share the message of Online Safety and are beginning to look at ways to enhance our safety when using Online resources both in school and at home. We look forward to sharing some of this with you in the coming months.

"Keeping Your Child Safe" Coffee Morning for Parents

Thank you to the 15 parents who attended our "Keeping Your Child Safe" Coffee Morning on Wednesday 29th March. All agreed that it was a very informative and interesting presentation and several parents expressed surprise that there were not more attendees. We would like to continue to run these events for parents, so please look out for them in the future.

Class Assemblies 2017

Please see below for class assembly dates. On very rare occasions we may need to change dates but always do our best to give maximum notice and keep parents well informed.

Year	Date
Nursery	Friday 24 th March 2017 - Mother's Day Celebration
Reception	Friday 30 th June 2017
1	Wednesday 5 th April 2017
2	Friday 16 th June 2017
3	Friday 19 th May 2017
4	Friday 5 th May 2017
5	Friday 24 th March 2017
6	Friday 21 st July 2017

Year 5 Class Assembly:

On Friday 24th March, 2017 Class 5 performed their class assembly, "It's All Greek To Me!" From the Olympics and democracy to Plato, the myths and the City States of Athens and Sparta, the assembly centred on the importance of the Ancient Greek culture. Using their BLP skills, the children thoroughly enjoyed enquiring, making links and collaborating with each other to showcase a comprehensive understanding of the topic. They ALL performed with passion and expression and should be very proud of all they have achieved. A huge well done to all involved!

Year 1 Class Assembly:

Congratulations to Year 1 for their excellent "Africa" class assembly on Wednesday 5th April. It was a real pleasure to see how confidently they used their speaking and listening skills and just what fun they have had this term learning all about amazing African animals!

Learning Curves Assembly:

On Monday 3rd April the children, who have been attending Learning Curves this half term, presented their assembly. The children have shown great commitment to the club and have very much enjoyed collaborating together to produce their show dance.

Commonwealth Competition

Many congratulations to Holly, in Year 5, who won our "Flying the Flag for the Commonwealth" competition. Holly's stunning design was picked by the Mayor of Solihull and she was very

GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 2 SPRING 2017

surprised when he came into school assembly! Holly was invited to the Council Offices to raise the Commonwealth Flag on Commonwealth Day: 13th March. Thank you and well done to all the entrants!

Health Week

George Fentham School enjoyed another whole school 'Health Week' from Monday 27th March to Friday 31st March 2017. 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', first aid training for Key Stage 2 children, a relaxation session and a fruit tuck shop at break times. Our thanks to the Fentham Trust for funding the 'Life Bus' once again this year. Feedback from the children has been excellent; they have really enjoyed these additional curriculum opportunities.

Sports Events - Spring 2017

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.

Clubs

Please see our Sports Newsletter for details of our summer sports clubs. In addition we will be running a range of other clubs throughout the summer term. Please look out for future letters.

PTFA

The PTFA is keen to increase numbers and very much look forward to welcoming new members. Please contact Nicola Pickering NicolaPickering@googlemail.com (07899082598) or John Read john@jre.org.uk (07814007281).

As a result of the money raised by the PTFA, we have now purchased a brand new stage from Stage Systems. This allows greater flexibility in the way we can use the stage and will support all future Class Assemblies and School Productions. In addition we are currently improving the range of Key Stage 2 class library books funded by a PTFA donation of £1500. This money makes a valuable difference in school and we very much look forward to future events.

PTFA School Disco Monday 3rd April:

The children thoroughly enjoyed the PTFA spring disco on Monday 3rd April. This event was very well attended with 69 children attending the infant disco and 92 children attending the junior disco. A huge thank you to both parents and staff who gave up their time to support the children and enjoy the dancing!

Charities - Spring 2017

This month we have taken part in "The Great Daffodil Appeal 2017", a charity which raises money for Marie Curie. Thank you for your support in raising money for a charity which is very close to our hearts.

On Friday 24th March children came dressed in their own clothes and bought red noses to raise money for Comic Relief. Together we raised a fantastic £527.05!

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 2 SPRING 2017**

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 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 Fentham we continue to encourage excellent attendance by all children. May we remind you that, in line with the Solihull Local Authority 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.

For your information we are now working with CSAW (Central School Attendance and Welfare Service) to monitor attendance and work with families to improve attendance where necessary. Each term attendance and unauthorised absence reports will be checked by the Attendance and Welfare Officer and where there are concerns the appropriate follow up actions will be taken.

Nursery Car Park and Parking Outside School

We have received a number of complaints about inconsiderate parking both in the Nursery car park and outside school. In particular, parents have been frustrated with drivers parking on the pavement, blocking safe access for children into school. Parents have also complained about drivers parking inappropriately blocking access into or out of the carpark. As a school we share this frustration and have real concerns about the safety of our children as they arrive and leave school.

May we remind you that the Nursery carpark is for Nursery parents only in the mornings and we would ask that drivers park appropriately in the designated areas. Please remember that drivers are able to park their cars at Fentham Hall both before and after school.

Dogs at School Gate

Following comments from a number of parents we would like to ask for your support in ensuring dogs are not brought to the school gate, blocking access in the morning for children as they enter the school site. Not all children (or adults) are comfortable around dogs and it can be extremely frightening for a child to walk past a dog, particularly if it is jumping or barking.

We are asking, therefore, that dogs are kept well away from the school gate at all times. Thank you for your support in this matter.

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 handed over to you at the end of the day please ensure that they are fully supervised and not allowed to run around on the small playground whilst we are trying to safely dismiss the rest of the school. From a safeguarding point of view

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 2 SPRING 2017**

it can be very difficult if children who have already been safely dismissed then run around close to children who have not been dismissed. Thank you for your help in keeping all of our children safe.

Supervision of Nursery Children before 9.00am

May we remind our Nursery parents that it is their responsibility to fully and 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. 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 Fentham Endowed School, I wish you all an enjoyable Easter Break and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 24th April 2017.

Mrs J Gaughan

Head Teacher

School website: www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk