

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER 2 SPRING 2018**

Spring 2: March 2018

Term Dates	
<b>SCHOOL TERMS &amp; HOLIDAY DATES</b>	<b><u>2017/2018</u></b>
<b>Spring Term</b>	Wed 3 January 2018 - Fri 16 February 2018
<b>Half Term</b>	Mon 19 February 2018 - Fri 23 February 2018
	Mon 26 February 2018 - Thur 29 March 2018
<b>Summer Term</b>	Mon 16 April 2018 - Fri 25 May 2018 <i>May Day Bank Holiday Mon 7 May 2018</i>
<b>Half Term</b>	Mon 28 May 2018 - Fri 1 June 2018
	Mon 4 June 2018 - Tue 24 July 2018
	<b>Remaining Inset Days 2017/18 : <i>Mon 4 June 2018</i></b>
	<b><u>2018/2019</u></b>
<b>Autumn Term</b>	Mon 3 September 2018 - Fri 26 October 2018
<b>Half Term</b>	Mon 29 October 2018 - Fri 2 November 2018
	Mon 5 November 2018 - Fri 21 December 2018
<b>Spring Term</b>	Mon 7 January 2019 - Fri 15 February 2019
<b>Half Term</b>	Mon 18 February 2019 - Fri 22 February 2019
	Mon 25 February 2019 - Fri 12 April 2019
<b>Summer Term</b>	Mon 29 April 2019 - Fri 24 May 2019 <i>May Day Bank Holiday Mon 6 May 2019</i>
<b>Half Term</b>	Mon 27 May 2019 - Fri 31 May 2019
	Mon 3 June 2019 - Mon 22 July 2019
	<b>Inset Days - To Be Advised</b>

**Dates for Diary Summer 2018**

Tue 17 April am	Reception Hearing Tests
Fri 20 April 10.30 to 12noon	Nursery Phonics Workshop
Fri 27 April	<b>Year 1 Assembly</b>
Fri 11 May	<b>Year 3 Assembly</b>
Mon 14 -Thur 17 May	KS2 Assessment Week
Tue 15 May	Year 5 Cricket coaching starts
Tue 15 May	Strings Explosion - Year 4
Wed 23 May	Tempest Photography Class Photos
Wed 23 May	Y6 Tag Rugby Festival at Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club * <i>New date*</i>
Fri 25 May	<b>Year 4 Assembly</b>
Thur 7 June	Y5 Visit to Bishop's Wood Anglo-Saxon Centre
Fri 15 June	<b>Year 2 Assembly</b>
Mon 18- Fri 22 June	Year 5 Bikeability
Mon 18- Fri 22 June	Year 6 Residential at Condoover Hall

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Wed 27 June	Year 4 Chance to Shine Cricket Festival
Thur 28 June	Year 5 Chance to Shine Cricket Festival
Fri 29 June	Nursery Visit to Umberslade Farm
Wed 4 July	<b>Reception Assembly</b>
Mon 9 July am	Y6 Leavers Service at St Martins in the Bull Ring
Fri 20 July	<b>Year 6 Leavers Assembly</b>

**Staffing Update**

**Y5 Mrs Corfield**

As this term draws to a close Mrs Corfield, one of our most experienced teachers, is retiring from teaching. As an outstanding classroom teacher Mrs Corfield has worked with a wide range of children, encouraging and enabling them to achieve the very highest of standards. Her subject knowledge, rigorous assessment and high expectations have all been a real asset to our school. Mrs Corfield is held in the highest regard by her colleagues who all value her opinions, judgments and dedication. Mrs Corfield has also been responsible for Religious Education and Collective Worship at George Fentham and was instrumental in securing our "Outstanding" judgement in our last Church Inspection.

This week our staff, children and Y5 parents have celebrated with her and thanked her for all that she has achieved at George Fentham. We will miss Mrs Corfield very much but wish her all the very best for the future.

**Y5 Miss Davis**

Next term we will be welcoming Miss Davis to George Fentham. Miss Davis will be teaching Y5 on Mondays and Tuesdays. She has already worked with the class, met with both Mrs Corfield and Mrs Kermode to ensure a smooth transition and attended the Y5 class assembly.

**Lunchtime Supervisors**

Earlier this term we said goodbye and thank you to Mrs Tribe, one of our Lunchtime Supervisors. We have also welcomed back to George Fentham Mrs Stevens, who previously worked here as a Lunchtime Supervisor. Mrs Stevens is delighted to be back and is also now running our school library and supporting some of our children with their reading.

Today we also say goodbye to Mrs Ellen, one of our Kitchen assistants. It has been a pleasure to have Mrs Ellen as one of our team and we wish her the very best in the future.

**Parent Consultation Evenings**

Parent Consultation evenings are excellent opportunities for teachers to share and discuss your child's progress and successes with you. Thank you to all of our parents who attended. Please feel free to contact your child's class teacher, at the very earliest opportunity, should you have any queries or concerns. This can be done at the end of the school day, once all children are safely dismissed, or via a telephone call to the school office. Your on-going support is very much appreciated.

**Health Week**

Staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed our annual 'Health Week' this half term. All classes visited the Lifebus, carried out follow-up work in class using "Healthy Me" Jigsaw materials, went inside an ambulance, asked a paramedic lots of interesting questions and had the opportunity to visit the fruit tuck shop. Key Stage 2 pupils also participated in a squash taster session - the coach

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praised George Fentham pupils for being extremely skilled and sporty! We hope that your child/children enjoyed this cross-curricular week and learnt more about keeping healthy and safe. Thank you to the Fentham Trust for once again funding the Lifebus.

**A Message from the PTFA**

There is a lot to update you on from the PTFA - hopefully you've all read the recent letter to share updates on: change of committee members, details on our IT funding focus "Project ICT Innovation" and plans for the rest of the year. Specifically this half term, we've had 2 fabulous events: Pancake Disco where we raised £350 and the Sponsored Matchbox Challenge. Although we only had 20 Matchbox entries, those fabulous children raised an amazing £300 between them! It just shows how 'a little goes a long way'.

This term, together, we have raised enough for one more PC:   
'Project ICT Innovation' grand total so far:     

Congratulations to the Matchbox winners for each class:

Nursery - Charles - 38 items

Reception - Amy - 30 items

Year 1 - Charlotte - 70 items

Year 2 - George - 50 items

Year 3 - Ben - 90 items

Year 4 - Mia - 43 items

Year 5 - Hattie - 64 items

Year 6 - Ryu & Evie - 97 items

We hope the children enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to more fun packed events in the coming months. Due to poor numbers we reluctantly decided to postpone the Barn Dance; we are looking to reschedule this for the summer term. Look out for other events we have coming up during the summer: School Disco, Coin Chaos, Freeze-pop Fridays and a new 100 Club. The PTFA's success is dependent on your support and engagement. If you would like to get more involved, please contact: [gftpfa@gmail.com](mailto:gftpfa@gmail.com) or via [www.classlist.com](http://www.classlist.com)



<http://georgefenthampta.weebly.com>

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

**School and Sports Events**

**Nursery Mothering Sunday Celebration**

Nursery children serenaded their mums with songs that they had been singing to support their learning on the Friday before Mother's Day. They did a great job for their very first class assembly; most were word perfect and several showed great enthusiasm and musical talent! All of the mums were presented with daffodils and portraits the children had drawn.

**Nursery Dance**

Nursery children have had a wonderful time learning dance moves with Candice from Katie Driscoll Dance School this half term. They have enjoyed experimenting with moving their bodies in different ways to the beat and particularly liked learning a pirate dance linked to this term's topic.

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**Year 1 African Safari Explorer Day**

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March, Year 1 took part in an African Safari Explorer day. All of the children came to school dressed as explorers ready to learn amazing facts about the African Savannah. The children were given opportunities to find out about many animals that live in the different parts of the continent. Using their shoe boxes, that they brought in, the class made some super safari dioramas - the classroom was a hive of creativity. Each child was also given a special explorer badge and a folder to help fire their imagination. In the afternoon the children were able to touch and hold a variety of animals, native to Africa. These included a rock python, a meerkat (one of Sunny's cousins we believe!), a white pygmy hedgehog, a tortoise, a barn owl and a very naughty falcon! A fun day was had by all!

**Year 1 Dance Festival**

This term Year 1 have been choreographing and performing a dance for the Solihull Dance Festival. This year's theme was 'Stronger than you think.' The children began by exploring their strengths and there was lots of discussion about courage, optimism, perseverance and friendship. Year 1 decided that, with all these personal strengths, we must ALL be super heroes. So Year 1 began exploring and linking strong super hero moves to make their dance - 'Everyday Heroes'. We practised lots and lots and lots in school so that we were ready for the big day. On Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup> Year 1 went to Alderbrook School, excited to be taking part in a Dance Festival. Before the parents came we had to practise in the big hall, we also got to watch all of the other dances, which was really inspiring. Finally with a few nerves and lots of jubilation we performed our dance in front of the parents. They were terrific.

'Dancing made us really happy because we got to show all the parents.' - Layla

'I felt proud of our dance and everybody working together.' - Samiyahn

'I was a bit scared but it was fun.' - Aurora

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all who supported our trip, those who supervised our practise and those who attended to watch the show. Without your support the children would not be able to participate in these wonderful opportunities. Thank you.

**Year 2 Presentations**

The children in Year 2 were tasked with producing their own short presentation, as part of their Speaking & Listening work, about any topic that interested them. The array of subjects, props/resources, photos, powerpoints and all round brilliant performances was a joy to behold and belied the fact that the children are only 6 & 7 years old. Mr Bass thoroughly enjoyed every one of the 29 presentations and is now working on the unenviable task of providing feedback!

**Year 3 Swimming**

Year 3 are coming to an end of their swimming lessons and it is great to see so many confident children in the water, assessment and awards will be taking place shortly. A huge thank you to Mrs Busby-Tomkins, Mrs Frisby and Mrs Panesar for their weekly assistance with swimming. Trips can only take place with the help of volunteers and we are extremely grateful to them for their time, reliability and commitment.

**Year 3 Visit to Compton Verney**

The Year 3 trip was to Compton Verney on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March for a Stone-Age experience. Despite the muddy conditions, the children had a super time building dens, lighting camp fires, making stone-age bread, cave painting and building walls. The final session was making and decorating clay pots, which would have been used to carry water from the nearby lake. This was a fantastic trip and really helped to bring our learning to life.

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**Year 4 Trip to Chedworth Roman Villa**

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March Year 4 spent a very exciting and eventful day at Chedworth Roman Villa, a National Trust property which ran a bespoke fun educational day, designed specifically for our class. After a wet and gloomy start, the sun shone for us and we were able to see the magnificent Roman ruins in all their glory. From beautifully preserved intricate mosaics to tepidariums and latrines, the children relished using their imaginations to immerse themselves in the lives of a wealthy Roman family living in Britain nearly two thousand years ago. In the interests of balance, the class then set to work grinding spices and experiencing the (relatively comfortable, by Roman standards) life of a kitchen slave. After working hard to create a fragrant pomander of spices to take home, the children agreed that the life of a slave working the land simply didn't bear thinking about!

We had a wonderful day and, whilst we so often say this (because it's true...) the children's behaviour was utterly outstanding and exemplary over the entire course of, what turned out to be, a long day. The trio of Mrs Chamberlain, Mrs Keast and Mrs Kelly would just like to reiterate that it was a pleasure and a privilege to take year 4 to Chedworth. They are a credit to us all.

*We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Year 4 parents for their support and understanding, following the coach breakdown and late return of the Year 4 children to school. Our absolute priority was the safety of the children and, we are pleased to confirm, the delayed return did not spoil their day. Indeed, the National Trust Guides gave up their time to extend the visit and activities for the children until the coach was ready to leave. As a school, we followed our procedures, notifying parents at the earliest opportunity (approx. 2.30pm) and keeping our website updated with an anticipated return time as soon as the coach company was able to supply us with this. The children and staff finally returned SAFELY to school at 5.45pm. Once again, thank you for your support and patience in this matter.*

**Year 5 Assembly**

On 21<sup>st</sup> March Year 5 performed their class assembly to parents. This year the theme was 'poetry' and the parents were entertained with a selection of classic and fun performance poetry on a range of themes. Hopefully the parents enjoyed the assembly as much as the children enjoyed studying and learning the poems!

**Year 5 Rainforest Man**

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March, Class 5 received a visit from the Rainforest Roadshow as part of our Rainforests topic this half term. Dave Shaw engaged the children with colourful photographs of his visits to Brazil, including fabulous close-ups of unusual animals, rare plants and smiling tribal people. The children were fascinated by tales from his travels as well as the animals Dave brought with him. These included a large stick insect (you could even see the spikes on its legs where it gripped tightly onto Dave's arm), as well as a docile tarantula - which some children liked more than others! Well done to the whole class who also held a fabulous orange, black and white Coral snake. The icing on the cake was when Dave produced a very large blow pipe and proceeded to pop a balloon, which was pinned to the notice board on the other side of the classroom. The afternoon session involved making colourful tribal necklaces and trying some unusual foods (such as dried jack fruit, cinnamon bark and tamarind). Many thanks to Dave for providing us with an engaging introduction to our topic.

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**Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby Coaching**

This term, Year 5 and 6 children have received Tag Rugby coaching from Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club. The children have developed their skills really well and have obviously enjoyed the sessions, taking part with great enthusiasm! Year 6 will continue this coaching in the summer term, leading up to the Year 6 Tag Rugby Tournament.

**Year 6 visit to the National Memorial Arboretum**

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018, Year 6 visited the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, linked to our work on "Memories" in RE. Fortunately, the weather was sunny for our visit. The children showed great interest in looking at the memorials and their symbolism. As always, their behaviour was exemplary!

**KS2: Primary Basketball League**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> match of the Primary Basketball League was played on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at Alderbrook School. The George Fentham team played their 5 games with eagerness, hard work, perseverance and showed excellent teamwork. George Fentham were placed an overall 4<sup>th</sup> in the League where there was very tough competition! A huge well done to all the team and a thank you to their parents for their support.

**Football Club**

Our final round of matches this term saw us play 3 games. Our first match was a tight affair and we fought hard, but it was a narrow defeat. This was followed by a fantastic game, with the children playing brilliantly and we managed a 3 - 1 win. Our final match was a different story. We came up against an extremely good team who seemed to just have a magical control over the football and they beat us by a large number of goals to 1! Throughout every match Mr Bass was so proud of the way that the children kept going, worked together and tried to improve each time. We will hopefully have several more games during the summer term (with better weather).

**Flying the Flag for the Commonwealth**

Thank you and well done to all the children who entered this year's competition. Although we did not win this year, we had some fabulous pictures, posters and designs. Entries are currently on display in school, outside Classes 3 and 4.

**NSPCC Visit**

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, the NSPCC led assemblies for KS1 and KS2, as well as workshops for Years 5 and 6, called "Speak out. Stay safe." Ably assisted by their mascot, Buddy, Clelia and Tracey from the NSPCC encouraged the children to talk to a trusted adult or Childline about their worries. You may like to visit the website [nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe](http://nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe) for more information and advice.

**Learning Curves Assembly**

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> members of the Learning Curves after-school dance club performed in an assembly to the children of George Fentham School. KS1 performed a lyrical dance and then KS2 performed a jazz dance. There was then a termly award ceremony presented to the dancers.

The Learning Curves final lesson for the term was on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March where the group performed the sequences to their parents.

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**Sport Relief**

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March was Sport Relief Day where the children dressed up using the theme "Whatever Moves You". This resulted in a vast array of sporting attire! Whilst Cook provided a "Healthy Me" lunch option, donations for non-uniform amounted to £216.20. This will go to Sport Relief, a charity which supports sporting projects in the UK and across the world.

**Easter Service**

This year, due to the church and school commitments, the Easter Service was held in school. The service was led by Rev Stuart Dimes on the afternoon of Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. Children from each class were chosen to give Easter readings, our choir sang beautifully and all the children enjoyed singing our Easter hymns and songs.

**Summer 1 Clubs & Music Lessons**

Day	Lunchtime	After-school
Monday	Guitar Lessons Keyboard Lessons 12.15-1.15 Games Club on Playground	Football Club 3.20-4.20pm.
Tuesday	Cello Lessons	3.20-4.20 KS2 Sports Club - Tennis
Wednesday	12.45-1.15 KS1 Sports Club - Tennis Strings Lessons	3.20-4.45 Learning Curves
Thursday	12.15-1.15 Games Club on Playground 12.45 - 1.15 Y1 & 2 Tri-golf	
Friday	12.15-1.15 Games Club on Playground 12.45 - 1.15 KS2 Tri-golf	3.20-4.20 Y4,5 & 6 Netball Club

**Medicines in School**

May we remind you that a medicine permission form must be completed and discussed with a member of the office staff if your child requires any medicine during the school day. It is extremely important that all medicine has the prescription label clearly displayed on the medicine, stating your child's name, dose and frequency. If this information is displayed on packaging, we will need this packaging to be supplied. This arrangement will also apply for Calpol, therefore, if your child requires Calpol during the school day the bottle must have a prescription label with the above details.

Should you wish to discuss this in any further detail, please contact the school office.

**School Meals - Outstanding Debt**

**Parents of children in KS2**

Due to the flexibility of the ParentPay system allowing parents to choose which days they wish their child to have a school meal, 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.

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**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 are continuing to work with Central School Attendance and Welfare Service Ltd (CSAWS). 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, 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.

**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.

**The Great Daffodil Appeal 2018**

Throughout March we have been selling daffodils on behalf of Marie Curie. This is a charity close to our hearts at George Fentham School, Marie Curie provide nurses who give care & support for people with a terminal illness. Thank you for your support.

**Request to Parents for Lego**

We would be grateful of any donations of **good quality Lego** that you no longer require at home. Lego can be used in school for a number of purposes; design and technology work, social skills teaching, wet play and golden time activities, to name but a few.

Please send any donations into the school office. Thank you for your support in this matter.

**And finally.....**

I am sure that you will agree, spring 2 has been a really busy 4 weeks and 4 days! The children and staff have worked incredibly hard to complete all of this term's teaching and learning, with a variety of trips, visits and extra-curricular activities adding great fun and experiences to the curriculum. We hope that this newsletter provides you with a useful update and reference point.

On behalf of the George Fentham Team, I would like to wish you an enjoyable Easter break and we very much look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 16 April 2018.

**Mrs J Gaughan**  
**Head Teacher**