

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 2 SPRING 2022**

April 2022



Term Dates

SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	2022
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 - Thursday 21st July 2022 - one day's holiday to be taken in place of the Queen's 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 2nd May 2022
Half Term	Monday 30 th May 2022 - Friday 3 rd June 2022
INSET DAY	Monday 6th June 2022

Dates for Diary 2021-2022

2022

Tue 19 th April	Reception September 2022 - Offer Day
Mon 25 th April pm	Chance to Shine Cricket Programme Y4 & Y5 starts
Mon 9 th - Thu 12 th May	KS2 SATs Testing
Wed 15 th June am	Tempest Photography - Individual Photographs
Wed 29 th June pm	Y4 Strings Performance for Y3
Thu 30 th - Fri 1 st July	Solihull MBC Secondary School Transition Days
Wed 6 th July	Y4 Chance to Shine Cricket Festival- Berkswell CC
Thu 7 th July	Y5 Chance to Shine Cricket Festival- Berkswell CC
Wed 13 th - Fri 15 th July	Y6 Condover Hall Residential
Thu 21 st July 10.00am	Y6 Leavers' Service at Church

Staffing

Catering Staff: After 10 years at GFES, providing school lunches, Mrs Grigg will be leaving us on Friday this week. We would like to thank her for all of her hard work and to wish her success in the future.

Reception Staff: This term we have welcomed Mrs Bromhall, our new Reception Teaching Assistant to George Fentham. Mrs Bromhall is working Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Mrs Davenport is now working Thursdays and Fridays.

COVID - 19 Update

As you will be aware, changes to the guidance for managing COVID-19 in education have been made from 1st April. In summary:

- Adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.

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- **Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, collage or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.**
- **Adults with positive COVID-19 test results should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.**

Over the spring term, we have continued to see high levels of COVID-19 in both children and staff. This very much reflects the national picture in schools and education at the moment. I would like to say a huge thank you to all of our staff who have provided support and cover in other classes, therefore minimising the impact on teaching and learning across the school.

Parent Consultations

It was a real pleasure to welcome Parents and Carers into school for Parent Consultations this term. We received lots of lovely feedback. The opportunity to see our beautiful displays, visit classrooms, look in children's books and speak face to face with class teachers were all commented on.

In addition, we were pleased to offer online appointments which other Parents and Carers found suited them better. As always we very much value the opportunity to share information on your child's progress with you.

Dogs at the School Gate

Recently we have been contacted by some of our Parents regarding the number of dogs at the side school gate and on the path leading down to the gate. Concerns have also been raised about dogs which have been tied up and left unsupervised.

We have a number of children in school who are scared to walk down the path when dogs are there. On occasions, the path is blocked by leads and children can struggle to get past. This tends to happen when dogs from different families mix together on the path.

We would like to ask for your help and consideration in this matter. Please ensure dogs are kept well away from the school gate and leads are kept short to reduce blocking easy access to school for our children. We would ask our dog owners to be mindful that some children are scared of dogs (even small ones) and are extremely nervous around them. In addition, we would ask that dogs are not left unattended on the path down towards the school side gate. Finally may we remind you that dogs are not allowed on school premises, even if they are carried.

Thank you for your consideration and support in this matter.

Class Events

Nursery:

Mother's Day Celebration

The Nursery children were excited to invite their mums into school to hear them sing some of the songs they have learnt at school to celebrate Mother's Day. It was lovely to be able to have parents in the classroom and the children rose to the occasion and sang their hearts out! Mums went home with 'Marvellous Mum Medals' that the children had made and some spring flowers.

Reverend Stuart and Reverend Claire

Not one, but two Reverends visited the Nursery children recently when Reverend Stuart and Reverend Claire from Hampton Church came into school! Dressed in their impressive robes, the Reverends told us about the role of a vicar and about some of the special events that happen at Church. Some of the children could recall going to Church with their families. We then had some

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fun 'baptising' one of our dolls in the water tray. Under Rev Stuart's guidance, one of the Nursery children officiated wearing a child-sized surplice!

Spring Walk

On a beautiful, sunny morning at the beginning of the month, Nursery children went on a Spring walk around the school grounds and playing field. We noticed lots of changes that occur at this time of year - leaf buds, blossom, bird song, signs of nest building, mini-beasts. It was all fascinating!

Mrs Durkin

Reception:

What a busy half-term it has been!

Our new theme 'In My Garden' has allowed us to explore the outdoors, notice changes in the seasons, observe new growth and hunt for Minibeasts! The children have enjoyed listening to and reading the stories and poems from these books: "Oliver's Vegetables", "Mad about Minibeasts" and "Jack and the Beanstalk". One day we found some magic beans so we planted them and now we are growing our own beanstalks! The children have the responsibility of caring for their beanstalks and they are very much enjoying the competition to see whose is the tallest! Happy holidays Reception.



Mrs Brown

Year 1:

What a wonderful end we have had to the Spring term here in Year 1! The children have thoroughly enjoyed our 'Amazing Africa' unit and it has been lovely to see them so absorbed in their learning. They have created some wonderful pieces of non-fiction writing all about African animals. We have discovered some amazing facts together, through exploring non-fiction texts.

In Geography, the children have also compared the village of Maasai Kenya to Hampton-in-Arden, exploring different ways of life around the world. To end the term, we used our imaginations to go on a Year 1 African Safari, we thought about all we had learnt about Africa and wrote our very own recounts. It has been a pleasure to watch the children grow in their learning and we look forward to the start of the Summer term where we will be looking at our new unit 'Toys'. We wish you all a wonderful Easter and thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Salmon and Mrs Barratt

Year 2:

In Year 2 we have had a really exciting term. We've been on many 'journeys' (learning about different journey stories) in English, such as "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" and "Where the Wild Things Are". When we had a day at the end of March when it snowed, we went outside and recreated the 'swirling, whirling' snowstorm - it was great fun! In History, we have learnt all about the "Great Fire of London". We've examined artefacts to see what they teach us about the past and written our own diary entries, using empathy to imagine what life would have been like. The best bit though - we will be recreating Pudding Lane, using our own Tudor houses, and then setting fire to them. This will help us to see how and why the fire spread so quickly. It will be AWESOME!

Mr Bass

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Year 3:

Another busy term for year 3! The children are continuing to make fabulous progress in swimming. They are perfecting their technique for a variety of different strokes and their stamina is improving each week.

We explored the geographical features of Hampton-in-Arden as part of our learning in Geography and went on a local walk. The children conducted themselves fabulously on the walk and we were able to identify many human and physical features around the village. Many thanks to our parent volunteers who helped support the children with this. Finally, in Design and Technology, we have been busy designing and creating packaging for an Easter bunny. We used CAD (Computer Aided Design) on PurpleMash to design our packaging. We then printed off the nets which we had to reinforce to make sure our bunnies were secure and didn't get squashed!

Mrs Hodge

Year 4:

Cheerleading

Year 4 children have had the opportunity to take part in a series of cheerleading sessions run in partnership with specialist teachers. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and have been able to develop a range of movement skills which they have put into an amazing sequence. Their endeavours have been integrated into a stunning performance of music and dance which we will be entering into a local Cheerleading festival. With their usual enthusiasm and creativity, Year 4 absolutely took our breath away. We are so proud of them!

Chocolate

We finished off our chocolate project this term with group-led collaborative posters on the chocolate-making process. The children have independently researched, planned and produced some amazing work. Alongside this, the children have designed their very own chocolate lollies which we made, packaged and presented to our lovely mums for Mother's Day. Our focus group feedback was very complimentary and if we were taking orders, we would be inundated. We could have invented the next big thing in chocolate this term!

Mrs Brooker and Mrs Briggs

Year 5:

It has been a busy half term in Year 5. We started our term with a visit from Reverend Stuart, who came to talk to us about the Last Supper. He made the story come alive by sharing with us how Christians remember this event in the weekly Eucharist at church. We even got to share the bread and wine! (Don't worry it was only squash.)

In Health Week, we developed our first aid skills, learning how to put someone into the recovery position. We used the book "The Colour Monster" by Anna Llenas to explore feelings and develop our understanding of mental health. It was wonderful to end the week taking part in a yoga flow session to calm our minds and strengthen our bodies.

In Geography we have enjoyed learning about rivers and rainforests and as part of our Design and Technology work, we have been designing houses to beat the flood and are looking forward to concluding our Geography unit with a visit from Dave Shaw and his rainforest road show.

Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Kermod

Year 6:

Year 6 have had a busy half term. We are now on the countdown to KS2 SATs (the week of 9th May 2022) and Year 6 are really working hard in their English and maths. Mrs Edmeades, Miss Timothy and Mrs Kelly are very proud of them! In other areas of the curriculum, we enjoyed a visit to the Church as part of our RE. Reverend Stuart helped us learn all about the different ways people might be remembered. The Year 6 children were very interested and asked lots of questions! In English, we have now started our new class book: "Millions" by Frank Cottrell Boyce; the children

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are enjoying the humour of this quirky story. We have also been creating our own Blogs on the children's own choice of subject in Computing. In French, we have been learning about Easter traditions in France and around the world. As part of Health Week and Science, we have also focused on keeping healthy. Well done to Year 6 for their continued hard work and focus on their learning.

Mrs Edmeades and Miss Timothy

Health Week & Jigsaw 2022

Staff and children enjoyed our annual Health Week at the beginning of this half term. Our focus this year was 'Emotion Coaching'. Emotion Coaching is the practice of tuning into children's feelings and supporting them to cope with — and self-regulate - negative emotions like fear, anger, and sadness. To support this, the 'Colour Monster' book by Anna Llenas was introduced to all classes to help children name and understand different emotions. This work was complemented by mindfulness activities, taken from our whole school JIGSAW resource.

This half term all classes followed the JIGSAW 'Healthy Me' unit of work. This covered two main areas of health (at an age-appropriate level): Emotional/mental health (relaxation, being safe, friendships, mental health skills, body image, relationships with food, managing stress) and Physical health (eating a balanced diet, physical activity, rest and relaxation, keeping clean, drugs and alcohol, being safe, first aid).

We were very fortunate to welcome a range of visitors into school during Health Week to complement our work in class. All children took part in a yoga session, Foundation Key Stage & Year 1 had a visit from the dentist, and Years 1 and 2 took part in an 'All Stars' cricket session.

Mrs Morris

GFES Behaviour Policy Review

This term we have been carrying out a review of our Behaviour Policy. We have discussed behaviour with School Council and listened carefully to the views of our children. We have worked with Staff and consulted with Governors. Next term we would like to review our new Draft Behaviour Policy with a Parent and Carers Working Party. If you would like to be part of this group, please email the school office and mark for the attention of Mrs Morris. Further details will be sent out after Easter.

GFES Football Team

The matches this half term provided lots of learning for our young footballers, requiring them to show many of our BLP skills, like perseverance and resilience and also to better understand those like collaboration and empathy. Despite their great efforts, and some lovely passages of play, we suffered two defeats. We are looking forward to playing our final matches in the summer term and, maybe, even organising a mini tournament with some other local schools.

Mr Bass

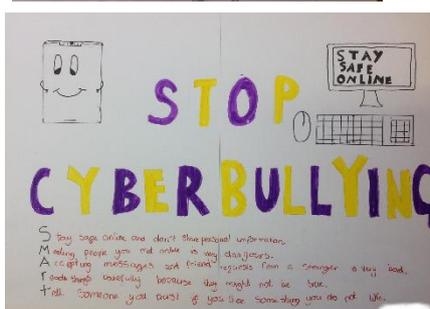
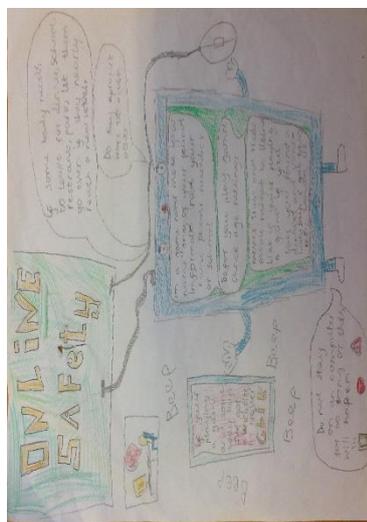
Online Safety Poster Competition

Following our Safer Internet Day assemblies, where our Online Safety members launched the poster competition, we were so pleased to receive lots of entries, all of which were fabulous!

Mr Bass, and the members from each class, met to discuss all of the entries to decide on winners from each class and the overall winner. This proved incredibly hard, but we are pleased to announce the class winners:

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- Year 1 - Eliza
- Year 2 - Sam
- Year 3 - Cassidy
- Year 4 - Elsie
- Year 5 - James
- Year 6 - Ophelia



The committee then selected their top 3. We are pleased to announce that, in third place, we have - Ophelia, in second place - Eliza but, in FIRST place.....ELSIE.

Prizes and certificates have been presented and the winning posters will now be copied and displayed around school, to encourage all children to think carefully about being safe online. Well done to everyone who entered!

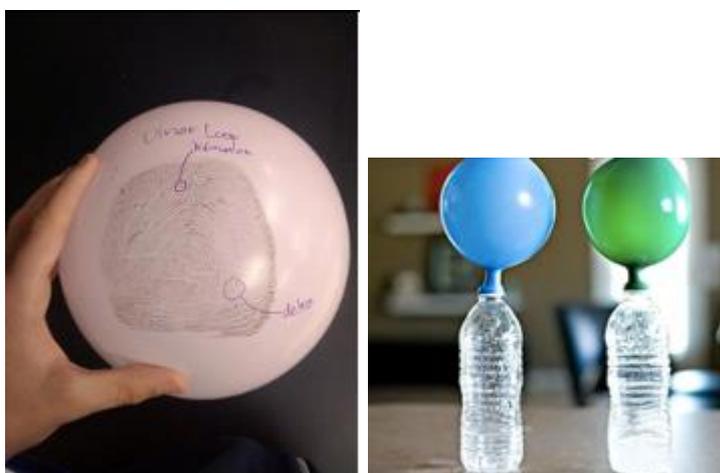
Mr Bass

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British Science Week

A fabulous week was had by all year groups during British Science Week (14th - 18th March). This is an annual national celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths. This year's theme was 'Growth' and every year group at George Fentham, from Nursery to Year 6, collaborated to answer the question 'Do bigger hands hold more sweets?'. Although the initial reaction of most children to the question was a resounding 'yes', it became their responsibility to prove their prediction. Every year group conducted the same investigation. However, the recording of results and the analysis of the data became increasingly more complex through the different age groups, culminating in Year 6 being responsible for pulling every year group's data together in order to produce a definitive answer.

Alongside this school wide initiative, children were also given the opportunity to participate in a series of daily 'wow' investigations, designed to inspire curiosity. From investigating the effects of acid on egg shells, inflating finger prints, to creating chemical reactions producing carbon dioxide, children experienced an array of engaging experiments.



Mrs Briggs

Eco- Council Update

Our Eco-Councillors have continued to work hard behind the scenes this half-term. Firstly, pulling together the data from the Bird Watch Week, which took place in the final week of spring term 1 and more recently, helping to organise the collection of broken electronic toys, which will be going to a specialist company that will recycle and reuse many of the electronic parts. Our collection of used glue sticks continues to grow steadily and one of the first jobs for Eco-Councillors next half-term will be to write to the manufacturers to ask whether glue-sticks could be made using eco-friendly materials. We will be reporting on this in the next newsletter.

UPDATE: Glue stick project - in just six weeks, as a school, we have used over 162 glue sticks!

Mrs Briggs

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. What an amazing day! I'll put up the photos in school so do please come and have a look next time you visit.

Mrs Brooker

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Class Assemblies - Summer Term

Further to my letter dated 21st March, next term we are planning to reintroduce Class Assemblies. This is something we have not been able to do for a while. Indeed, some of our younger children have never had this opportunity. We have decided to use these Assemblies to "Share Our Learning". Some of our classes will focus their Assembly on one curriculum area, whilst others will share an overview of their whole curriculum this year. In order to ensure children are not overwhelmed by this opportunity, we will be keeping these events short and focused.

We would love you to join us for your child's Assembly and have published the dates below to provide you with notice. We would ask that, where possible, younger children and babies do not attend. However, if there is no alternative, we would ask that if your child becomes upset or distracts the Assembly, you take your child out for a few minutes.

(Please be aware that these dates are subject to change should there be any unforeseen circumstances.)

Class	Date
R	Friday 17 th June am
1	Fri 24 th June am
2	Friday 27 th May am
3	Friday 8 th July am
4	Wednesday 8 th June pm
5	Monday 11 th July am
6	Wednesday 20 th July (Leavers Assembly)

Spring 2 2022 Clubs & Music Lessons

Day	During the school day	After-school
Monday	3.20 - 4.30 pm	Jet Dance After School Club
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Strings Lessons Wider Opportunities - Y4 Strings	
Thursday	Woodwind	3.20-4.20 pm Year 5 Sports Club
Friday	Keyboard & Guitars	3.20-4.20 pm Year 6 Sports Club

Charities

The Great Daffodil Appeal

Throughout March we have been selling daffodils on behalf of Marie Curie who care for and support people through terminal illness. We are waiting to hear from them the total raised and will let you know in the next Newsletter. Thank you for your support.

Comic Relief - Red Nose Day

Friday 18th March was an non-uniform Day where the children & staff were invited to wear something red. A total of **£325.00** was raised. Thank you for your support. Comic Relief 2022 aims to help people live free from poverty, violence and discrimination. This includes funding organisations that are supporting people in Ukraine and those attempting to cross the borders to safety in neighbouring countries.



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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.

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 and enjoyable Easter holiday. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 25th April 2022.

Mrs J Gaughan
Headteacher