

GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 2 SPRING 2023



March 2023

Term Dates	
SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	
	<u>2022/2023</u>
Autumn Term	Monday 5 th September 2022 - Friday 16 th December 2022
Half Term	Monday 24 th October 2022 - Friday 28 th October 2022
Spring Term	Tuesday 3 rd January 2023 - Friday 31 st March 2023
Half Term	Monday 20 th February 2023 - Friday 24 th February 2023
Summer Term	Monday 17 th April 2023 - Tuesday 25 th July 2023
Half Term	Monday 29 th May 2023 - Friday 2 nd June 2023 May Bank Holiday: Monday 1 st May 2023 Bank Holiday: Monday 8 th May 2023 - His Majesty's Coronation
INSET DAYS	Monday 5 th September 2022, Friday 21 st October 2022, Monday 31 st October 2022, Tuesday 3 rd January 2023.
REMINDER: CHANGE OF DATE	CHANGE TO INSET DAY FROM FRIDAY 26TH MAY 2023 TO FRIDAY 28TH APRIL 2023 - please see below*.
	<u>2023/2024</u>
Autumn Term	Monday 4 th September 2023 - Friday 22 nd December 2023
Half Term	Monday 30 th October 2023 - Friday 3 rd November 2023
Spring Term	Monday 8 th January 2024 - Friday 22 nd March 2024
Half Term	Monday 12 th February 2024 - Fri 16 th February 2024
Summer Term	Monday 8 th April 2024 - Monday 22 nd July 2024
Half Term	Monday 27 th May 2024 - Friday 31 st May 2024 May Bank Holiday: Monday 6 th May 2024
INSET DAYS	To be advised

REMINDER:

*Inset days are used for staff training and development, providing an excellent opportunity to work with other agencies and professionals. Unfortunately, we have had to change the date of our last inset day due to the revised availability of the Educational Psychologist who will be providing training to staff. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this has caused.

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Dates for Diary 2022-2023

2023

Tue 21 st March	Year 4 visit to Cadbury World
Tue 28 th March	Bee Netball Festival
Thur 30 th March	PTFA Bunny Bingo
Fri 31 st March 9.30am	Easter Church Service Years 1 - 6
Fri 31 st March am	Reverend Stuart to Visit Reception & Nursery
Mon 17 th April	Reception 2023 Offer Day
Tue 18 th April	Y4 & Y5 Chance to Shine Cricket Programme commences
Fri 21 st April 10.45am	Nursery Phonics Workshop for Parents
Thur 27 th April am	Year 4 visit to the Central Mosque
Tue 2 nd - Fri 5 th May	Year 5 Bikeability
Fri 5 th May pm	Year 1 Phonics Inspire Workshop
Tue 8 th - Fri 12 th May	Reception "Get Pedalling" New Date
Thur 4 th May	Year 3 visit to Compton Verney
Tue 9 th - Fri 12 th May	KS2 SATs Week
Mon 15 th May	Nursery Living Eggs
Wed 17 th May am	Playhouse Theatre performance for Nursery
Wed 17 th May pm	Playhouse Theatre performance for Reception
Mon 12 th June	Reception Trip to Parkridge, Brueton Park
Wed 14 th - Fri 16 th June	Year 6 Residential at Culmington Manor
Mon 19 th - Fri 23 rd June	Health Week
Tue 20 th June	Nursery to visit Ash End House Farm
Wed 21 st June	Tempest Photography - class photos
Thu 22 nd June	Year 6 Borough Athletics Competition
Fri 30 th June	Year 6 Tag Rugby Festival, Edwardians FC, Streetsbrook
Wed 5 th July	Year 4 Chance Festival at Berkswell CC
Thur 6 th July	Year 5 Chance Festival at Berkswell CC
Fri 7 th July	Year 5 trip to Bishops Wood Field Centre (Anglo Saxons)
Tue 11 th July	Year 6 Leavers Service, St Philip's Cathedral Birmingham
Thur 13 th July	Nursery & Reception "Animals In Hands" (tbc)
Fri 14 th July	Year 2 Tri-Golf Festival, Pitch & Putt, Tudor Grange Park

Class Assemblies 2023

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to our class assemblies. Please see the provisional dates below. Further individual class details will be sent out, confirming dates and times.

Year Group	Dates
Reception	Friday 14 th July
Year 1	Friday 19 th May
Year 2	Friday 9 th June
Year 3	Friday 30 th June
Year 4	Wednesday 12 th July pm Date Change
Year 5	Friday 26 th May
Year 6	Leavers' Assembly Friday 21 st July

Staffing Update

Retirement: Mrs Hansford

This week we have been saying our goodbyes to Mrs Hansford who, after 19 years at George Fentham, is retiring. Mrs Hansford has been at the very heart of our school and has touched the lives of so many children, staff and families. We have all appreciated her kindness, positivity and willingness to help. She has been overwhelmed by all of the lovely cards, gifts and good wishes that she has received this week. We know the decision to leave has been a difficult one, however, Mrs Hansford will be keeping in touch and has even volunteered to go on a few school trips next term!

On behalf of our whole school community I would like to thank Mrs Hansford for all that she has done and all that she has given to George Fentham Endowed School. We have loved having her as part of our George Fentham Team and wish her the very best in the future.

Parent Consultations

Thank you to all of our parents and carers who joined our face-to-face and online Parent Consultations this term. This was a lovely opportunity to share your child's learning journey with you and to keep you updated on the progress they are making.

You are always welcome to speak with our teachers if you have any concerns or worries. This can be at the end of the school day when our children have been safely dismissed or through contacting the school office.

Class Events

Nursery

Spring Walk

On a beautiful, sunny morning recently, 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, evidence of nest building, mini-beasts. We really enjoyed seeing and hearing all the signs of spring and thought about how different it was to the snowy days we had just last month!

Visit from Reverend Stuart

We heard all about the role of the vicar when our village Reverend visited the class. Some of us have been to church services at the Church. We also learnt about the special services that are celebrated when people get married and children are christened; some of us were keen to role play being a vicar and bride and groom!

Mother's Day Celebration

Nursery children sang their hearts out when their Mums came into the classroom to celebrate Mother's Day. We were very excited to sing some of our favourite songs and a special thank you song to show how much we love them! We gave our Mums the cards we had made and some daffodils.

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, although the weather has been slightly against us! The children have enjoyed listening to and reading lots of stories, including "Oliver's Vegetables", "Jasper's Beanstalk" 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

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responsibility of caring for their beanstalks and they are very much enjoying the competition to see whose is the tallest! We have explored vegetables and used tools to chop them. Keep looking for signs of spring during the Easter break! Happy holidays Reception.



Mrs Brown

Year 1

African Safari Explorer Day

On Tuesday 14th March, Year 1 took part in an African Safari Explorer day. All the children came to school dressed as explorers ready to learn amazing facts about the African Savannah. The children looked absolutely fantastic. A massive thank you to all the parents who went to so much trouble creating, buying and making fantastic costumes. Every child was also given a special explorer badge and a folder to help fire their imagination.

There were opportunities, throughout the day, to find out about all the different animals that live in the different parts of the continent.

Using wooden spoons, we made animal puppets and had great fun adding detail and key features to our spoons. We had crocodiles, flamingos and many cheetahs! They were all brilliant.

In the afternoon, we used our special 'Explorer' notepads to find African animals hidden around the school. We managed to spot a giraffe, a lion, a meerkat and so many more. A great day was had by all.

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Mrs Salmon & Mrs Mandell

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 the snow days in March, 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

Year 3

Year 3 have been exploring our local area as part of our learning in Geography. We walked through Hampton-in-Arden to investigate the different types of housing and facilities. We then compared this to the town of Hamelin in Germany that was the setting of our shared story in English, "The Pied Piper of Hamelin" by Michael Morpurgo.

We have really enjoyed this story and have had great fun creating our own legend stories based on this well-known tale. We had to think carefully about features of legends and have been using lots of descriptive language to set the scenes for our stories and to describe our characters.

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Finally, we had our last swimming lesson this week. Year 3, you have been fabulous and have all made incredible progress, we are very proud of how far you have come and how much stamina you have developed with your swimming!

Mrs Hodge

Year 4

What a wonderful end we have had to the spring term in Year 4. This half term, the children have been totally immersed in their cross-curricular learning about chocolate. We began our learning journey finding out about the features of explanation texts in English. We then used a variety of texts and media to research the process of how chocolate is made from bean to bar before pulling all of this learning together by working collaboratively in groups to create our own explanation texts to showcase our findings. Once we had become chocolate experts, Class 4 took an exciting trip to Cadbury World to enrich this learning further. Our English topic linked beautifully with our Design and Technology task of designing, manufacturing and testing our own chocolate lolly creations, specifically targeted for our own choice of consumer.

In music, Class 4 have continued to make super progress with their instruments and have now mastered a number of different playing techniques and an increasing repertoire of songs. This half term, the children have also been learning to read music, an extremely tricky skill. Well done Year 4!

Looking forward to the beginning of the Summer term, the children are very excited about our next unit of work in PE. We are extremely lucky to be having a coach coming to Year 4 that will be teaching us how to play cricket. Due to the coach's availability, our PE next half-term will be moving from Monday afternoon to Tuesday afternoon. Our second PE slot will continue to be Friday.

Mrs Briggs & Mrs Gibbons

Year 5

Rainforest Roadshow

On Friday 10th March, Class 5 received a visit from Dave Shaw and his Rainforest Roadshow as part of our Rainforests topic this half term. Dave engaged the children with colourful photographs of his visits to Brazil, Ecuador and Costa Rica, including fabulous close-ups of unusual animals, rare plants and smiling tribal people whom he had met along his travels. The children were fascinated by tales from his journeys as well as the animals Dave brought with him. These included large stick insects (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! He also brought with him a giant snail as well as some fabulous leaf insects - their camouflage was so realistic that we could not tell them apart from the foliage in their box.

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, as well as piercing Mrs Kermode's apple! The afternoon session involved making colourful tribal necklaces and smelling and tasting some typical rainforest foods (such as cocoa pods and coffee beans). Dave also painted some tribal patterns on to some children's faces or arms. We would like to say a huge thank you to the Fentham Trust for supporting this visit and many thanks to Dave for providing us with an engaging introduction to our topic. Well done to all children for their fantastic listening and their enthusiasm in asking questions.

River Study Trip - Hams Hall

Year 5 have been learning all about Rivers in Geography this term. We have learnt about the water cycle, the features of rivers such as tributaries, deltas and ox bow lakes, how rivers are formed

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and have used relevant vocabulary such as transportation, erosion and deposition. The children have also enjoyed looking at maps, reading Ordnance Survey symbols and learning about coordinates when reading maps.

As part of our Geography unit, we paid a visit to Hams Hall Environmental Centre and the children had a chance to explore the River Tame in more detail which really helped to consolidate their learning in the classroom and helped to bring the Geography to life. They refreshed their knowledge of river systems and water quality with hands-on experiments and activities, before then heading out to see the River Tame for a field study, measuring its physical properties. All adults were so impressed with the sensible behavior of the children around the river and the way in which they listened to instructions.

Mrs Bradburn & Mrs Kermode

Year 6

Year 6 have worked amazingly hard over the last few weeks learning all about India. Not only have the children been choreographing both non-locomotive and locomotive Bollywood Dance routines with pattern and direction, they have also cooked delicious vegetable Indian Curries. Our text, Broken Glass has taken us on a journey through both the slums and the more affluent areas of India, through the eyes of a little boy named Suresh. It has been wonderful to observe the children's absorption in the text, along with their empathy towards the characters. Making links, in both Geography and English, the children have been learning all about Water Aid. They have been exploring how water is a universal need but that access to water differs depending upon where you live. Here is one example of the children's fabulous poetry...

Madness:

Can you hear the worry?

I can...

Dark, damp shacks

This is unfair

We are so lucky, a blessing really

Yet they are suffering

Crying in pain

Thirsty girls and boys. The water filled sun

The beaming heat

A nightmare which encases them

I can still hear the worry

Can you?

Madness still runs around the barren villages

Water is a right, a right.

Yet there is none to be seen

Dying children

Sadness spreads

Developing countries, gradually improving

Nearly there. Maybe one day

Definitely not today

Don't take for granted the water you have

A miracle of life. A miracle.

Lola Perry

Miss Timothy

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Eco Council

For such a short half-term, our eco team have certainly been very busy. Following a successfully coordinated bird watch week by our eco-councillors at the end of the first half-term, the results have been analysed and we can advise that the top three birds spotted in our school environment over the week were pigeons, blackbirds and starlings.

At the beginning of this half-term, eco-councillors began this year's research project, the question being 'how many used pens, felt-tips and high-lighters can be saved from landfill and recycled?'. Councillors introduced the project within their classes and made sure their class had a publicity poster and a collection tray. We look forward to announcing our results at the end of the summer term.

Also this half-term, councillors helped to raise the awareness of Fairtrade Fortnight by supporting (KS1 councillors) or leading (KS2 councillors) an assembly promoting this global initiative. Following a factual PowerPoint about what Fairtrade means, the councillors read a story about Pablo the banana's adventures. With lots more eco initiatives still to come in summer term, our councillors are making great progress in helping to ensure that we achieve the Greener Solihull Schools Award 2022-23. Well done Councillors!

Mrs Briggs

School Council

At the start of the spring term, all of the classes were given £200 by the PTFA to spend on wet weather break-time equipment. The School Council went back to their classes and came up with a wish list of all of the things they would like to keep them busy during wet break-times. We then spoke as a Council and discussed which ones we thought would work well in school.

Over the course of this half term, the Year 6 Councillors have worked with each set of class Councillors to spend their allocated budget. The children have had to make sure that they didn't go over their £200 and add up their spending as they went along!

We are very much looking forward to seeing the equipment in classrooms next term.

Mrs Bailey

Online Safety Council

The Online Safety Committee have been working hard on ways that we can raise the profile of Online Safety, both in and out of school. Having made some amendments to the Online Safety page on the school website, helped in putting a display for the children up in school and canvassed their classes about what they think would help, the committee members are now in the process of planning an 'Online Safety Quiz'. We will also be looking at how we can get more information directly out to parents.

Mr Bass

PE and Sports Update

School Clubs Summer:

After the Easter holidays we will begin our Summer Club offering. **With the exception of football which will continue as normal, children will need to register for new clubs.** The letters will go out on **Friday 31st March** or can be collected from Mrs Bradburn at any point in the summer term. As soon as you have returned the reply slip to the office your child can attend. Afterschool clubs can accommodate 32 pupils and places are distributed on a first come first served basis. They will commence the week beginning Monday 17th April and run for 12 weeks.

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We ask that all children and parents show a continued commitment to these clubs by attending every week. Please note, to ensure full inclusivity, we are funding many of these opportunities from our school budget and reserve the right to cancel clubs if attendance is low.

	Lunch time	Afterschool
Monday		Jet Dance 3.20 -4.30pm Open access via Jet Dance
Tuesday	KS2 Sports Club By invitation only (12) Natalie Hardy- Adaptive Sports 12.40 -1.15	KS2 Girls Football (32) Open access 3.20pm -4.20pm Megan Smirles & Louis Andrews- Sports Development
Wednesday	KS1 Sports Club By invitation only (12) Chloe Ebbon -Adaptive sports 12.20 - 1pm	KS2 Boys Football (32) Open access 3.20pm -4.20pm Simon Harrison & Ben Maxwell- Sports Development
Thursday	Year 1 Multisport Club Open access (16) Natalie Hardy- Adaptive Sports 12.40 -1.15	KS2 Athletics Open access (32) 3.20pm -4.20pm Natalie Hardy & Bel Chefri- Adaptive Sports
Friday	POP up Tri- Golf Club By invitation only (12) Aaron	KS1 Bat and Ball Games Open access (32) 3.20pm -4.20pm Natalie Hardy & Chloe Ebbon- Adaptive Sports

During the summer term (weather permitting) the afterschool clubs would like to use the field. WE politely remind all parents that the school has priority in this instance and kindly ask you not to use the field at these times. This is an important safeguarding issue, and we need your support to enable us to maintain our duty of care for the children who attend sports clubs. Thanking you in advance for your cooperation.

Football Fixtures

Boys: Captained by Leo Hadley-Farnan

GFES 1 - Meriden 3

This was not the result we wanted, however there was lots that the team could be proud of. The captain's work rate and determination to find a way through the opposition, Olly and Mo's strength in defence and Charlie and Rory's teamwork in scoring were wonderful to watch. All the boys can hold their heads high, knowing they played well- it was just one of those days when no matter how many attempts on goal we had, the ball just didn't want to go in! Well done boys, you were excellent ambassadors for our school and showed respect for the other team.

The boys finished 5th out of 7 teams in the Small Schools' League.

Girls: Captained by Luna Gardner

GFES 0 - Dickens Heath 0

I can only say a huge thank you to all the parents and girls who braved the snow determined to play the last match of the season. The previous games had gone ahead, despite the adverse weather conditions, but by the time it reached our game it was just too dangerous to

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continue. The girls' attitude was fantastic, and I know they were disappointed not to be playing. Let's hope we get another chance in the summer.
The girls finished 4th out of 6 teams in the Girls' League.
The girls have been selected to play in the South Solihull Plate Tournament on the 25th May.
Details to follow.

Bee Netball Tournament

This tournament was postponed due to weather, and we look forward to attending it in the summer term when it has been rescheduled.

PE Sale

Thank you for all those who supported our PE equipment sale after school on Wednesday 29th March where we raised over £85 for items with "some life left".

Sporting Assemblies: Gateway to a Healthier Future

The Key stage 1 children welcomed Warwickshire Cricket into their assembly on 8th March. Each class had the opportunity to participate in a taster session for the upcoming cricket programmes: All Stars Cricket & Dynamos Cricket. Both of these programmes will be run at Hampton in Arden Village CC and begin in May. Check out the ECB (English Cricket Board) website if your child is interested.

On Wednesday 29th March Key Stage 1 also has a taster session assembly from Hampton Tennis Club. It was wonderful to see their smiling faces and hear their giggles as they practised their skills. Again the new season is fast approaching and those wishing to encourage their little ones to participate should contact Ian Poole at Hampton Sports Club.



SO GO! Is the Solihull campaign to get people moving and make healthier lifestyle choices. There are lots of events planned in and around Solihull that might be of interest to you and your families from Ping pong, to bike repair. If you are interest to find out what is on offer you can access their website. <https://solihullonthemove.co.uk/>



[About Solihull On The Move - Solihull On The Move](#)

Solihull on the Move is a framework supporting a borough-wide commitment, to inspire healthier, happier and more sustainable communities through moving more, more often. The year-long physical activity campaign SoGo! showcases ways to get moving and provides information about how to support the campaign to help inspire others.
solihullonthemove.co.uk

Mrs Bradburn

As you can see, there are lots of fun sporting activities available for our children to keep them moving and support healthy lifestyle choices. We would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to Mrs Bradburn who works so hard to organise and coordinate all of these events.

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Spring 2023 Music Lessons Timetable

Day	Music Lessons
Monday	N/A
Tuesday	SMS Cello Lessons Ms James SMS Drum Lessons Mr Elliott SMS Violin & Viola Lessons Miss Gosling
Wednesday	Wider Opportunities - Y4 Strings Miss Gosling
Thursday	SMS Woodwind Ms Roe
Friday	SMS Keyboard & Guitars Mr Jones

World Book Day - Thursday 2nd March

Thank you for your extraordinary efforts on World Book Day. The potatoes looked amazing and it was a delight to see the children so excited about their reading. There were online activities with authors, illustrators and quizzes during the day and the afternoon was finished off with story time across the school. What a brilliant day!

Judging the potatoes was incredibly difficult and involved most members of Staff! The winners are as follows:

- Year 6 - Edward Sellers (cat)
- Year 5 - Dolly (unicorn)
- Year 4 - Sophia (Hedwig)
- Year 3 - Nieve (the twits)
- Year 2 - Sadie (Three little pigs)
- Year 1 - Sonny (Harry potter)
- Reception - Robyn (dinosaur)

Special categories:

- PSHE Potato - Amba for Colour monsters (Year 2)
- Coronation Potato Winners - Chloe (Year 2) for the Queen and Anaya for Little Miss Princess (Reception)
- My favourite book potato - Elouise (Year 1) for The tiger who came to tea
- Best use of vegetables - Phoebe (Year 6) for the Witch
- Best dressed potato - Charlie (Year 4) for Cat in the Hat
- Best sea creature - Elliot (Year 3) for the Snail and the Whale
- Scariest Potato - Joshua (Year 1) the Bloodblotter from BFG
- Best use of props - Walter (Reception) for the Highway Rat (Reception)
- Best 'less is more' potato - Max (Year 5) for the boy at the back of the class

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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 spring term book fair was very well attended by parents and children - thank you very much for your continued support. The new format for the Book Fair was positively received and the feedback we have been given from parents has been very useful for future book fairs. We hope you and your child have enjoyed sharing your new books. A total of £500 worth of books was sold and the school raised approximately £80 to spend on free books across the school. We will be spending this money on books to help us celebrate the King's Coronation later this year.

Mrs Brooker

Charities and Appeals **TOTAL £1,265.02**

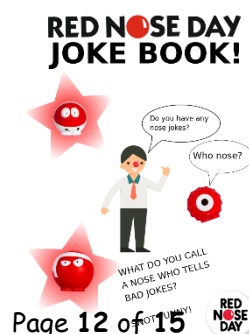
Jolly Jumper Day:

At the end of last term, donations were made for wearing a Christmas jumper. The Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity have now advised us that an amazing **£356.00** was raised.

Earthquake Appeal

We held a non-uniform day on Friday 10th March 2023 in support of the Earthquake Appeal, a total of **£597.00** was raised, thank you for your generous donations for such a worthy cause.

Red Nose Day - Comic Relief



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This year as part of our fundraising, we decided to do something different for Comic Relief. Each of the children were asked to submit a joke of their choice, which were collated and made into the "George Fentham Joke Book".

We then sold these to the children for a minimum donation of £1.

In total, we raised **£242.50** for the Comic Relief charity. Thank you so much for your support with this initiative - we hope our jokes gave you a good laugh!

Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal

The Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal, selling daffodil pins throughout March raised **£69.52**. Every penny raised is helping Marie Curie Nurses be there for more people who live with any terminal illness.

Mrs Bailey

PTFA Events

PTFA Spring Neon Disco

Following the success of the PTFA Neon Disco on Thursday 2nd March 2023, we can advise that 177 children attended the event, and we are delighted to inform you that a total profit of £417.86 was raised.

Bunny Bingo

On Thursday 30th March the PTFA introduced a new "Bunny Bingo" fund raising event. The event was a complete sell out and a huge success. Thanks to your generosity we had a huge amount of donated chocolate which made exciting prizes for all of our lucky winners.

A huge thank you to our PTFA members for all of their hard work in organising and running these events. We would also like to thank our staff who volunteered to help and support.

Considerate Parking in the Local Vicinity

There are a small number of parents who continue to park, causing congestion outside school, or across driveways often blocking the drives completely. As a result, we continue to have a number of complaints from local residents about this and would once again ask that parents park considering both the safety of our children and access for local residents.

Please note: Parents are invited to park in the Fentham Hall car park and walk their children down to school to try to ease congestion on Fentham Road.

Dogs near Playground Entrance

A huge thank you to all of our parents and carers for keeping dogs away from our children coming into and leaving school. We continue to ask for your full support in keeping all dogs away from the path between school and the allotments at the start and end of the school day.

Not all of our children are comfortable around dogs and some children are particularly frightened and nervous around them. We hope everyone is able to support us in keeping this area free from dogs at all times. Thank you.

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 2022-23. Each half term, attendance

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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 Policy 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 Healthy 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 £2.30 per day.

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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 wraparound 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 wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable Easter holiday.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 17th April 2023**.

Mrs J Gaughan
Headteacher