

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER 2 SUMMER 2021**

July 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to begin our Newsletter by saying a huge thank you and well done to our amazing children, staff, families and Governors for all of their incredible hard work and support in such a challenging and difficult year. I am so proud of the way our children and staff have adapted, shown true resilience and maintained such a positive "can do" attitude. It has, without doubt, been the most uncertain, exhausting and, at times, frustrating year I have ever experienced. However, every day, I have been inspired by the dedication and commitment of our incredible staff team, the energy and positivity of our children and the care and support shown to us by so many of our Parents and Governors.

As you will have seen from my letter last week, we anticipate some significant changes in schools from September and we are already working hard to prepare for the autumn term. Our priority is the safety and well-being of everyone at George Fentham and we look forward to returning to some of our pre-COVID ways of working.

The summer break is an opportunity to rest and recover and prepare for the challenges ahead. I hope you and your families enjoy some quality time together and really look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September**.

With the isolation of some of our Class Bubbles right at the end of term, we have not been able to celebrate and end the year in quite the way we would have wanted. However, reflecting back over the whole year, disruption to learning through individual Class Bubble closure has been kept to an absolute minimum and we very much hope this will no longer be necessary in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our children a safe and happy holiday and to wish our Year 6 children great success in the future, it has been a privilege to have you at George Fentham.

Mrs J Gaughan  
Headteacher

Term Dates	
<b>SCHOOL TERMS &amp; HOLIDAY DATES</b>	<b><u>2020/2021</u></b>
<b>Summer Term</b>	Mon 19 April 2021 - Wed 21 July 2021 <b>May Bank Holiday:</b> Mon 3 May 2021
<b>Half Term</b>	Mon 31 May - Fri 4 June 2021
<b>INSET DAYS</b>	<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July &amp; Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021</b>

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<u>2021/2022</u>	
<b>Autumn Term</b>	Thu 2 September 2021 - Fri 17 December 2021
<b>Half Term</b>	Mon 25 October 2021- Fri 29 October 2021
<b>Spring Term</b>	Tue 4 January 2022 - Fri 8 April 2022
<b>Half Term</b>	Mon 21 February 2022- Fri 25 February 2022
<b>Summer Term</b>	Mon 25 April 2022- <b>Thur 21 July 2022</b> - one day's holiday to be taken in place of the Queens Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday on Friday 22 July 2022(the actual date of Friday 3 June 2022 is during the Summer half term holiday) <b>May Bank Holiday: Mon 2 May 2022</b>
<b>Half Term</b>	Mon 30 May - Fri 3 June 2022
<b>INSET DAYS</b>	<b>Thursday 2 September &amp; Friday 3 September 2021</b> <b>3 further INSET days to be advised at the start of next term.</b>

**Dates for Diary 2021**

Tue 21 September 6.30pm	Welcome to Nursery Workshop (TBC)
Wed 3 November	Nasal Flu Vaccination Programme
Wed 17 November am	Tempest Individual Photographs

**Arrangements for Drop off and Pick Up 2021/22**

Please see the table below which was sent out earlier this week.

Year Groups	Opening time	Drop off Location	Finish time	Pick up Location
Nursery	9:00	Nursery door	12:00	Small Playground
Reception	8:45 – 8:55	Children to enter side gate onto the small playground and walk through Nursery outdoor area, up the steps and through the Nursery external door.	3:15	Small Playground via Nursery outdoor area.
Year 1	8:45 – 8:55	Children to enter side gate onto the small playground, walk down the path, across the large playground and enter school through the rear door.  Staff will be at key points supervising the children as they walk round.	3:15	Small Playground
Year 2			3:15	Small Playground
Year 3			3:20	
Year 4			3:20	
Year 5			3:20	
Year 6			3:20	
Bus Children			3:15	Year 5/6 door

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*Please note, we are aware that some tables can become distorted when sent through Parent Pay. This can be a particular issue with some iPhones and iPads. If this is a problem, you could open the document on a different device (e.g. home computer) or contact the school office for a paper copy.*

**Staffing**

We would like to wish our Teaching Assistant, Miss Clamp, good luck in the future as she is leaving us at the end of term to train as a teacher from September. We are delighted that our children have inspired her to make teaching her chosen career!

From September, Mrs Samples will be providing occasional supply cover for us rather than teaching for one day a week in Year 6. We would like to thank Mrs Samples for all of her fantastic hard work with our Year 6 classes over many years, she has been a real asset to our school.

We will be welcoming Miss Timothy to Year 6 next term. She will be working with Mrs Edmeades and teaching the class on Thursdays and Fridays. Miss Timothy is an experienced Year 6 Teacher and is very much looking forward to working with us in September.

**COVID-19 Reminders**

**HOLIDAYS ABROAD**

In line with school policy, please be aware, holidays should not be booked in term time.

If you are travelling abroad over the summer break, please ensure you consult and follow the **most up-to-date Government guidance and advice**. If you are travelling back from a country and are required to quarantine, you must inform the school office if this impacts on your child returning to school in September.

We ask for your full support in this matter in order that we can continue to keep all of our children, staff and families safe.

**TRACK AND TRACE**

We have received advice from Solihull Council that from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July education and childcare settings are no longer being asked to carry out contract tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work to identify close contacts - either directly with the positive case or with Parents/Carers if a child is the positive case.

This now brings to a close the contract tracing we have done, as a school, over the last 17 months. I would like to say a huge thank you to the office staff who have been outstanding in providing this service, monitoring every weekend and over the holiday periods.

**Reports & Meeting New Class Teachers**

End of year reports have now been sent out, or are available for collection. We have received a huge amount of positive feedback and are really grateful for your kind and supportive comments. Please send back any feedback you have as your views and thoughts are really important to us in evaluating all that we do. Please note, if a Parent has previously requested a second copy of their child's report, this is now ready for collection from the school office.

Due to the requirement to maintain Class Bubbles, children have been unable to visit their new classrooms this term but Teachers have, where possible, met their new class and spent time talking about next year. Please be reassured that we are aware some children may be slightly

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anxious about this transition and staff will be providing additional support and reassurance once the children start back in September.

**PTFA**

Thank you to the PTFA for their generous donation of £4,000. This has funded a new interactive whiteboard in Year 1 and our Subject Leaders are currently purchasing resources for their areas to benefit the whole school such as new world globes for each class and percussion instruments.

*A message from the PTFA*

*2020/2021 has of course been a difficult year and as you can imagine it's made our usual events/activities difficult to almost impossible to do. This means our fundraising has been limited but we have still been able to make some fantastic contributions to the school and children of George Fentham. This year we have:*

- Donated £4000 towards the school*
- Supplied all children in Yr6 with Leavers' Hoodies*
- Provided a beautiful Christmas tree for the hall and a small present for each child at Christmas.*

*Thank you to everyone who has made a donation so far... you can still send a donation anytime to:  
George Fentham Endowed School PTA  
38933470  
54-30-35*

*We hope, with all your support that we will be able continue this level of contribution next year and here are a few easy ways you can support the PTFA:*

- Join <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/gfeschoolptfa/> and help us raise money by simply shopping online.*
- Shop through AmazonSmile and search for George Fentham Endowed School Parent Teacher Association. <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1022563-0>*
- Buy your school name labels from: [www.mynametags.co.uk](http://www.mynametags.co.uk) quoting the school ID: 26751 - we will receive 20% of your order.*
- Rejoin the 100 Club for next year: <https://forms.gle/TLG6DRzAqxKTMauZ9>*

*The PTFA's success is dependent on your continued support and engagement. We particularly need support from parents in Foundation and KS1 for the PTFA to be sustainable going forward for future years. However, many of our team will be leaving at the end of term as they will no longer have children at GFES. So new members for September will be essential for us to continue. If you would like to get more involved, any help big or small is appreciated, please contact us: [gfptfa@gmail.com](mailto:gfptfa@gmail.com). Or just turn up at our next meeting. We look forward to meeting some new faces in September 2021!*

*Date of the next meeting: 8:00pm (usually the first Monday of the month)  
on Zoom or at the White Lion (TBC in September)*



<https://www.facebook.com/PTFAGeorgeFentham/>  
[www.classlist.com](http://www.classlist.com)



**Class Events**

**Nursery:**

**Teddy Bears' Picnic**

Nursery children invited their favourite teddy into school at the end of term. The weather was perfect for a picnic and we all enjoyed having our snack on the playing field and played some fun games with our teddies.

**Dentist**

Nursery children really enjoyed the visit of a Reception Parent who is a dentist. Mrs Sunder explained all about how to keep our teeth clean and healthy. We know we need to sing 'Happy Birthday' twice while we brush!

**Mrs Durkin**

**Reception:**

This half term we have enjoyed learning about Wild Animals and Minibeasts. We have looked at similarities and differences, habitats, patterns and groups of animals such as mammals. We have read lots of stories to inspire our writing and role play. We had a visit from a Dentist, Mrs Sunder, to talk to us about keeping our teeth healthy and clean. To celebrate the end of the year we had a teddy bears picnic. It was so much fun! We played party games and enjoyed a yummy snack. Mrs Brown, Mrs Davenport and Miss Clamp are so proud of the children this year, they really have worked super hard in all areas of their learning!

**Mrs Brown**

**Year 1:**

**Pizza!**

The end of this half term has been extra exciting as Year 1 got to make their very own pizzas. We started off by trying different toppings and breads to see which would be the most suitable for our own pizza. We were really proud of the children as so many embraced the taste testing and tried lots of foods they'd not eaten before! Well done for trying something new! Once we had created our design for our 'Perfect Pizza' we spent the morning choosing the appropriate toppings and being very creative. The pizzas were then cooked and taken home at the end of the day. The smell of the pizzas cooking was delicious and the children couldn't wait to eat them!

**Mrs Salmon and Mrs Barratt**

**Year 2:**

We have had a brilliant half term in Year 2. We have designed and made moon buggies in D & T, learnt all about Shakespeare and performed scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in English, created our own musical composition in Computing, studied the human and physical features of the seaside in Geography, completed our SATs (which were Secret Agent Tests!) and had a fabulous time at our Sports Day. Now, as we move to Year 3, we are excited for the year ahead...

**Mr Bass**

**Year 3:**

Year 3 have had a wonderful half term of learning. In English we have been reading 'How to Train Your Dragon'. We have designed our own amazing dragons and written fact files all about them. We also researched the author Cressida Cowell and wrote a biography, detailing key events in her life and what inspired her to write her books. In Science, we have been exploring how to keep healthy and strong and discovering the importance of a balanced diet. We applied our knowledge in Science to our DT where we have designed a healthy sandwich. We have been making our

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sandwiches at home as part of our home learning. They have been delicious! In PE, we have been developing our batting and fielding skills to play Rounders. We can't wait to play a whole class game on the final day!

**Mrs Hodge**

**Year 4:**

**Cheerleading**

Following on from their dance and movement sessions run in partnership with Miss Mollie from Animated Dance, the Year 4 children entered the South Solihull Year 3 & 4 Virtual Cheerleading Festival this half term. We are awaiting the results but, regardless of the outcome, the children had a huge amount of fun and have developed a range of movement skills which they put together for their amazing sequence. Their collaboration and enthusiasm have made these PE sessions hugely enjoyable and thoroughly rewarding for all. Well done Year 4 - we're so proud of you!

**Strings**

Sadly, the Year 4 Strings Concert was not able to run this year and neither were we able to welcome parents into school to celebrate all things musical in Year 4. The children did hold their own concert last week playing, with such obvious delight, their favourite pieces. What a talented class they truly are.

PS Just a quick reminder for parents; if your child has an instrument at home, please would they bring it in to school before the end of term. Thank you.

**Mrs Brooker and Mrs Briggs**

**Year 5:**

**Year 5 Chance to Shine Cricket Coaching**

Over the last six weeks Year 5 and 6 have been working alongside Coach Will from Warwickshire Cricket Club to develop their cricket skills. Warwickshire Cricket Board and Chance to Shine believe strongly in the power of competition. They provide competitive opportunities for children, so they can aim high, work hard towards a goal and learn how to win and lose graciously. They also build resilience, helping the children to bounce back when things don't quite work out. The children have thoroughly enjoyed developing their, throwing, catching, bowling and batting skills in a fun and competitive way. It has made us immensely proud seeing the children's progress in such a short space of time.

**Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Kermode**

**Year 6:**

**Year 6 Chance to Shine Cricket Coaching**

Year 6 have very much enjoyed their Chance to Shine Cricket coaching this half term. Our coach, Will, built up our skills each week including catching and fielding; bowling and batting; as well as working well together as a team. Each session ended with competitive team games. It was lovely for Year 6 to be able to do this and our Tuesday morning sessions were greatly enjoyed by all!

**Condover Hall**

We managed to go to Condover Hall for a fantastic day visit on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July. The weather was beautiful, and the sun shone for us! The children enjoyed water sports, high ropes and team activities in a fun-packed day! A lovely last event for our Year 6 children.

**Finally...**

Mrs Edmeades, Mrs Samples, Mrs Kelly and all of the Staff at George Fentham would like to send Year 6 pupils the very best of luck and good wishes as they move on to their new secondary schools.

**Mrs Edmeades and Mrs Samples**

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**Summer 2 2021 Clubs & Music Lessons**

Day	Lunchtime	After-school
Monday	12.15-1.30 Games Club - Sports Coach	
Tuesday	Brass Lessons	3.20-4.20 Year 4 Sports Club
Wednesday	Strings Lessons	
Thursday	Woodwind Lessons	3.20-4.30 Year 3 Sports Club
Friday	Guitar & Keyboard Lessons 12.15-1.30 Games Club - Sports Coach	

**Sport Mornings & Notifications**

**A message from Mrs Bradburn**

**Sports Days:**

Well done to all the children who participated in our School Sports Days. It was wonderful to celebrate our sporting talents and the good sportsmanship shown by the children. The children competed to win points for their team colour and put their knowledge of School Games Values into practice. As well as celebrating the winning teams the children also voted for their peers, awarding medals for respect, improvement, self-belief and teamwork.

The results are as follows:

**KS2 Sports Morning - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

The morning included fun packed activities: shot putt, long jump, target throw, javelin and sprints.

Position	Team	Total Scores
First	Green	380
Second	Red	364
Third	Blue	348
Fourth	Yellow	327

**School Games Value Awards**

Award	Name	Class
Respect	Akshay	Year 3
	Pearl	Year 4
	Elliott	Year 5
	Reagan	Year 6
Improving & Self Belief	Amy	Year 3
	Sebastian	Year 4
	Daniel	Year 5
	Jake	Year 6

**EYFS/KS1 Sports Morning - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021**

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Position	Team	Total Scores
First	Green	229
Second	Yellow	219
Third	Red	197
Fourth	Blue	160

**School Games Value Awards**

Award	Name	Class
Respect	Asa	Nursery
	Chloe	Reception
	Axel	Year 1
	Noah	Year 2
Improving & Teamwork	Logan V	Nursery
	Burt	Reception
	Rosie	Year 1
	Bea	Year 2

**Congratulations Green Team!!!**



**The Summer Reading Challenge- Solihull Libraries**

***The Summer Reading Challenge is back in Libraries this summer holiday!***

Starting on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July** children can register to take part in a challenge to read 6 books over the holidays and earn themselves stickers, posters, rewards and a certificate and medal. **And it's all completely FREE!** There are lots of games and quizzes too, plus artists and storytellers in many of Solihull's libraries. The Summer Reading Challenge is proven to support reading for pleasure and help children **avoid the reading dip** across the summer. Children can read whatever they choose for the Challenge, and in any format, physical or digital. If children complete the Challenge they can enter a free prize draw to win four tickets to see Cinderella, the Panto at The Core Theatre this Christmas. Oh yes they can!

**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



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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, 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.

**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. Please ensure all medicines are collected at the end of term, checked and returned, where necessary, on the first day back in September.

**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 or 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.

**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.**

**Concerns raised by Parents and members of our Community**

A reminder that dogs are not allowed on any part of the school premises, which includes the playground at the end of the school day. Dogs can be intimidating and frightening for some of our children. Please be aware, if you have a dog with you (including if you are carrying your dog) you will be asked to leave school grounds and wait outside.

Inconsiderate parking in the village at school drop off & pick up times continues to be a problem with some local residents unable to drive on and off their driveways during these times. Please consider parking at Fentham Hall and walking the short distance to school as this will ease parking congestion around the village.

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**Palmer's Schoolwear**

Palmer's based at 1640 High Street, Knowle, Solihull B93 0NA, who supply George Fentham School Uniform are offering an appointment service to avoid any unnecessary queuing outside the shop. Please contact them at [palmersales4@gmail.com](mailto:palmersales4@gmail.com) or 01564 776590.

Please be advised about a promotion at Palmer's

' Every £100 spent on school uniform, they will take 10% off a pair of Geox school shoes. '

This is available from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021 or while stocks last.

**School Meals - Outstanding Debt**

**Parents of children in KS2:**

School meals are currently £2.20 per day and will remain at that price from September 2021

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.

