

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 4 - SPRING 2015**

March 2015

Term Dates	
SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	<u>2014/ 2015</u>
Spring Term	Mon 5 January 2015 - Fri 13 February 2015
Half Term	Mon 16 February 2015 - Fri 20 February 2015
	Mon 23 February 2015 - Fri 27 March 2015
Summer Term	Mon 13 April 2015 - Fri 22 May 2015 <i>May Day Bank Holiday Mon 4 May 2015</i>
Half Term	Mon 25 May 2015 - Fri 29 May 2015
	Mon 1 June 2015 - Mon 20 July 2015
	<u>Inset Days 2014/15:</u> Fri 22 May 2015, Mon 20 July 2015
	<u>2015/2016</u>
Autumn Term	Wed 2 September 2015 - Fri 23 October 2015
Half Term	Mon 26 October 2015 - Fri 30 October 2015
	Mon 2 November 2015 - Fri 18 December 2015
Spring Term	Mon 4 January 2016 - Friday 12 February 2016
Half Term	Mon 15 February - Friday 19 February 2016
	Mon 22 February - Wednesday 23 March 2016
Summer Term	Mon 11 April 2016 - Fri 27 May 2016 <i>May Day Bank Holiday Mon 2 May 2016</i>
Half Term	Mon 30 May 2016 - Fri 3 June 2016
	Mon 6 June 2016 - Fri 22 July 2016
	<u>Inset Days 2015/16:</u> To be advised

Dates for Diary

2015

Tue 24 March pm	Year 2 Gymnastics Team to Level 3 Competition, Monkspath
Thur 26 March 4.00to6.30pm pm	South Solihull Netball Tournament, Lode Heath School
Fri 27 March am	Easter Church Service

Fri 17 April	Year R Trip to Sea-Life Centre, Birmingham
Fri 17 April 10.30am	Nursery Phonics Workshop
Fri 24 April	Year 5 Assembly
Wed 6 May	Year 3 Assembly
Fri 15 May	Year 1 Assembly
Mon 11 - Fri 15 May	SATs Week
Mon 18 May pm	Year 4 "Strings Explosion" Concert - pm Rehearsal then Evening Concert
Fri 5 June	Year 6 Tag Rugby Festival
Wed 10 June am	Tempest Photography - Class Photographs
Wed 10 June am	Year R Health Checks with School Nurses
Fri 12 June	Year 4 Assembly
Mon 15 - Fri 19 June	Y6 Residential - Condover Hall
Mon 22 - Fri 26 June	Y5 Bikeability Course
Wed 24 June	Reception Assembly
Wed 24 June am	Childline Assembly Years 5 & 6
Wed 24 June	Year 2 Tri-Golf Festival
Wed 1 July pm	Years 5 and 6 Childline Workshops
Fri 3 July am	Year 2 Assembly

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Tue 7 July am
Thur 9 July 1.00pm
Wed 15 July am
Fri 17 July am

Year 6 Leavers Service at Birmingham Cathedral
Year 1 Cheerleading Festival
Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Year 6 Leavers Service at Church

Staffing Updates

We wish Mrs Smart well and would like to thank her for her valuable contribution to school as she leaves us at the end of this term to take up her new position working for Birmingham Local Authority. After Easter we will be welcoming Mrs Qureshi to George Fentham to teach our Year 1 class for 3 days per week. We also say thank you and goodbye to two of our Lunchtime Supervisors. After 8 years, Mrs Finch will be retiring from George Fentham and Mrs Ashman will also be leaving us as at the end of term.

[PLEASE COME AND JOIN OUR TEAM!](#)

GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL

Email: office@george-fentham.solihull.sch.uk



Lunchtime Supervisor

Part-time Permanent Position

A variety of sessions available per week, 1 ¼ hours per day,

Term-time only

Salary Range £13,614 - £14,075 (pro rata)

We are looking for an enthusiastic, caring and reliable individual to join our excellent team of lunchtime supervisors. You will be responsible for supervising children during their lunch break both inside and outside and for promoting positive behaviour through leading play activities. Guidance will be given on Health & Safety, First Aid and school policies and procedures.

You are most welcome to make an appointment to visit our school to find out more. Further information including an application form, job description and person specification is available by request from Mrs Hansford in the school office.

**Please return the completed form to the
Head Teacher - Mrs J Gaughan**

Closing Date: Friday 24th April 2015

George Fentham Endowed School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An Enhanced DBS check will be required for the successful applicant.

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School Visits & Events

Nursery

Playhouse Theatre

Nursery children had a very exciting visit from the Playhouse Theatre Company earlier this term. 'Ranger Ratcliffe' came into school and asked for our help in finding a little lost otter. With his fabulously imaginative storytelling, we searched along the riverbank encountering lots of adventures. We had great fun making up our own stories and creating maps after this experience.

Mothering Sunday Assembly

Mums were invited into the Nursery class for a Mothering Sunday Assembly on Friday 13th March. The children were in good voice and sang a selection of songs related to their learning. They then presented their Mums with a plant, which the children planted in the autumn, and then watered and watched as it grew.

Year 1

Jungle Explorer Day

On Thursday 5th March, Year 1 took part in a Jungle Explorer day. All children came to school dressed as explorers ready to learn amazing facts about the African Rainforest. Children were given opportunities to find out about all the different animals that live in the different parts of the Rainforest. They were given special explorer badges and folders to help fire their imagination. A fun day was had by all!

West Midlands Safari Park

On Thursday 12th March Year 1 went on a day trip to West Midlands Safari Park. As soon as we arrived, we went straight into the Safari and saw many different kinds of amazing animals. The 'African Plains' area was first and here we saw rhinos and giraffes. One of the mischievous giraffes tried to poke his head through the window of the coach. It was such a wonderful experience to see this amazing creature up close, rather than just in books!!

Year 5

Rainforest Man

On Friday 6th 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), the larvae of a very large beetle, 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 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 plantain, cassava crisps and cinnamon bark) followed by a delicious drink of a juice made from an Amazonian fruit. Many thanks to Dave for providing us with an engaging introduction to our topic.

Church Visit

On Monday 23rd March class 5 took part in a fascinating visit to Hampton Church to look for 'Symbols of the Cross'. As always Duncan made everyone feel extremely welcome and he showed the children his interesting collection of crosses and talked about the history behind each one. It was a thoroughly enjoyable morning and class 5 would like to thank Duncan for making their visit so much fun!

Year 6

Bollywood Dance Workshop

On Friday 27th February 2015, Year 6 welcomed Reena Taylor from Bollywood Dreams Dance into school for a Bollywood dance workshop. We all thoroughly enjoyed learning a routine to "Jai Ho" (including Mrs Edmeades!). We are now using some of the ideas from the workshop to further develop our dance work in PE this term.

Church Visit

On Monday 9th March 2015, Year 6 children visited Hampton Church in connection with our work on "Memories and Memorials" in RE. Duncan took us around the church and churchyard and we explored all the ways in which we remember people we have loved. Many thanks to Duncan for this thought-provoking morning.

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Visit to Memorial Arboretum

On Friday 20th March 2015, Year 6 visited the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. This trip was linked to our RE work on "Memories and Memorials", but also linked back to our work from the autumn term on WW1 and WW2. We all found this visit extremely interesting and the children showed great respect for the different ways in which we remember those who gave their lives, in many different conflicts across the world, from WW1 to the present day. We were also very lucky that it was a beautiful spring day for our visit!

Health Week

It was another fun packed Health Week this year, from KS2 learning lifesaving skills with St John's Ambulance to KS1 enjoying shaking their hips in Zumba! The healthy snack bar went down a storm with Miss Bullock making 3 return trips to the supermarket for extra fruit! The Life Bus was a great success and enjoyed by all. Year 6 showed a mature and sensible attitude when learning about the effects of illegal drugs on the body and Reception learnt some catchy rhymes to help them to clean their teeth properly.

The School Council competition (to design a poster to encourage children to get regular exercise) saw lots of creative and informative entries. Miss Bullock, Mrs Smart and the School Council had a difficult time choosing between the fabulous entries, but finally agreed on the following:

Overall Winner	Albert Green	Reception
KS1 1st prize	Murray Watts	Year 2
2nd prize	Gabriel McGinn	Year 1
3rd prize	Heidi-Rose Moore	Year 2
KS2 1st prize	Amy Goodworth	Year 5
2nd prize	Monty Bryant	Year 3
3rd prize	Nell Bryant	Year 5

Their work, along with a rosette, will be displayed on our PE board in school.

Spring 2015 Sports Newsletter

Please take time to look through the spring 2015 Sports Newsletter detailing all the recent sporting events and activities during this term especially during Health Week. Thank you to Mrs Nicholson for producing this Newsletter and for all her work in leading PE and Sport throughout the school.

Red Nose Day

Friday 13th March was Red Nose Day, in support of Comic Relief helping children in UK and Africa. The children were invited to "Make your Face Funny for Money" and to dress in non-uniform. The total amount raised was **£180.57**. During the previous weeks we sold 240 "Noses in Bags", of which there were 9 varieties to collect. Thank you for your support.

Assemblies

Learning Curves

On Friday 13th March we enjoyed a Learning Curves Assembly. The children performed the dances that they had been working on this term and were awarded certificates and trophies for both achievement and effort. Well done to the children who took part.

Eclipse

Friday 20th March 2015 was a special day across the country, with the first major eclipse for 16 years. Sitting in a sunlit hall, children were engaged with an Eclipse PowerPoint showing them the science behind what was happening, as well as viewing live footage on the BBC of the moment the eclipse reached its peak. As the room gradually darkened children felt the temperature drop slightly, heard the birds go quieter and experience the slow movement of the moon in front of the sun. The discussions, back in classrooms, afterwards proved a real highlight for this once in a childhood experience and the feedback from the children was great.

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Illness / Sickness

We continue to do all that we can to reduce the spread of illness and infections in school. The advice from the Solihull School Nurse Team, regarding sickness and diarrhoea is that your child stays off school for at least **48 hours after** the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea and does not return to school until they are feeling fit and well along with eating and drinking normally.

Please inform the school office between **8.30 and 9.00** if your child is unable to attend school as every absence must be accounted for and is carefully monitored.

IMPORTANT - Allergies

There are several children in school who have a severe reaction to nuts either by eating them or being in close proximity to nut products. We would ask for your help and support ***by avoiding sending any food items containing nuts into school.*** Thank you.

Please note: Any class treats supplied by parents will be given out at the end of the school day for children to eat under the direct supervision of their own parent.

Contact Numbers and Medication

Please let the school office know if there are any changes to your contact telephone numbers. It can be very distressing for your child if he / she is taken ill and we are unable to contact you quickly. To enable the school office to administer & supervise use of medicines, inhalers, epi-pens etc a consent form **must** be completed. Please note it is your responsibility to ensure any medication left in school is in date.

Break time Snacks

Please support our healthy snack time by sending in **pure fresh or dried fruit and vegetables only.** Children have access to drinking fountains and 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.

School Answer Phone

We have recently updated our phone system in school and now have an answer phone which allows you to report your child's absence. We hope that you find this more convenient to use in the future.

ParentPay-School Lunches KS2

We would like to remind parents the importance of keeping your parent pay accounts in credit for your child's school meals in KS2.

As previously advised we do have a policy in school that if a child's lunch money falls into debt by one week's dinners @ £9.50 a reminder letter will be sent home asking for your child's account to be credited before another hot meal can be provided by the kitchen.

Thank you for your on-going support this term. We wish you an enjoyable two weeks and look forward to welcoming the children back into school on Monday 13th April 2015.

Mrs J Gaughan
Head Teacher

School website: www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk