









Term Dates

SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	<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 - Friday 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 Day Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May 2024	
5 INSET DAYS	Inset Day 1: Monday 4 th September 2023 Inset Day 2: Friday 27 th October 2023 Inset Day 3: Monday 8 th January 2024 Inset Day 4: Friday 24 th May 2024 (now confirmed) Inset Day 5: Monday 22 nd July 2024	











Dates for Diary 2023/24

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Monday 23 rd October	Tempest School Photographs
Tuesday 24 th October	Seasonal Childhood Flu programme
Thursday 26 th October	Active Play Heroes Leadership Training - Lode Heath
	School
Tuesday 31 st October	Closing date for secondary applications for 2024
Thursday 9 th November	Year 6 Residential Meeting (4pm) Children & Parents
Friday 10 th November	EYFS Open Day (1:15pm to 2:15pm)
Monday 13 th November	Christmas Chronicle Competition – closing date
Tuesday 14 th November	Primary Dodgeball Rural (Yr5 Team) Arden Academy
Wednesday 15 th November	League football George Fentham Boys v Hockley Heath
Thursday 16 th November	League football George Fentham Boys v St Margaret's
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need
Wednesday 22 nd November	League Football George Fentham Girls v Hockley Heath
Wednesday 22 nd November	Yr 4 Cheerleading festival, Lode Heath School
Wednesday 22 nd November	In School Active Challenge

Friday 1st December Closing Date: Nursery 2024 Applications
Monday 4th December League football 4.00pm GF Boys v Lady K

League Football 4.30pm GF Girls v St G & T

League football 5pm GF Boys v Our Lady of Compassion

Tuesday 12th December EYFS/KS1 Christmas Performance (9:30am)
Wednesday 13th December EYFS/KS1 Christmas Performance (9:30am)

Monday 18th December KS2 Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal at Church Tuesday 19th December KS2 Evening Christmas Concert at Church (6pm) Wednesday 20th December KS2 Afternoon Christmas Concert at Church (2pm)

Monday 15th January

Closing dates for Reception entry 2024
Thursday 18th January

League football GF Girls v St G & T

Tuesday 6th February League football 4.30pm GF Girls v Solihull School

League football 5.30pm GF School v Knowle

Thursday 8th February League football 5.30pm GF Girls v Peterbrook Monday 26th February League Football 4.00pm GF Boys v St Patricks

League football 4.30pm GF Boys v Meriden

Wednesday 12th - Friday 14th June Year 6 Residential

Foundation stage Open Day

Parents of children applying for Nursery or Reception places at our school for September 2024 are invited to attend our:

FOUNDATION STAGE OPEN DAY

Friday 10th November 1:15pm - 2:15pm

An informal opportunity to visit our Early Years Foundation Stage classrooms and discuss our provision with staff.

IMPORTANT Admission Dates - reminders

- Application closing date for Secondary Schools for current Year 6 children is 31st October 2023. Offer day is 1st March 2024. Applications are dealt with by Solihull Admissions.
- Application closing date for children to start Reception in September 2024 is 15th January 2024. Offer day is 16th April 2024. Applications are dealt with by Solihull Admissions.
- Application closing date for children starting Nursery at George Fentham Endowed School in September 2024 is 1st December 2023. Offer day is 31st January 2024. Applications are dealt with by George Fentham Endowed School, please see the admissions pages on our school website.

Parent Pay/Contact details

All parents of children who started school in September 2023 will now have received an activation letter for Parent Pay. Please can you ensure you have followed the steps to activate your account. Parent Pay is really important to us in school as it is one of the ways we communicate with you either on a whole school basis, class basis or individual basis. We may for example, ask for consent for trips or activities here, inform you of upcoming events, or enable you to pay for school lunches. In order to consent or reply you must log into your account and from here the home page clearly directs you to what is being requested. Please can you ensure all of your contact details are upto-date including email addresses. If you have any amendments, please send them in to the school

office. If you have any queries or questions regarding Parent Pay, please speak to Miss Smith or Mrs White in the school office.

Parking Outside School - Polite Request

We have had several parents and visitors complaining about the "uncourteous" car parking in the Nursery car park, and outside the school, at drop-off and pick-up times. Please be advised, the Nursery car park is for use by **Nursery parents only**, in the mornings.

If you are using the Nursery car park, please ensure you park considerately in one of the marked bays. Unfortunately, cars are regularly being "abandoned" in the entrance or exit spaces, which means no one can drive in or out of the car park. This is leading to a serious backlog of traffic on Fentham Road.

There is a voluntary one-way system at school drop-off and collection times. Please enter at the bottom of Fentham Road opposite the War Memorial and leave at the top end of Fentham Road turning onto Marsh Lane. If everyone could follow this direction, the traffic would be able to flow a lot more freely on Fentham Road. Thank you for your support in this matter.



Collecting your child at the end of the school day

At the end of the school day we are dismissing approximately 200 children onto the small playground. With limited space and well over 150 adults collecting, we would like to ask for your help to ensure everyone's safety.

Once your child has been released to you by their class teacher, <u>please keep your child with you and do not let them run around on the playground</u>. It is very difficult, from a staff point of view, to check every child is with the correct adult if children are running between parents. In addition, there are more opportunities for children to bump or knock into each other as classes are being dismissed. Thank you for your support in this matter.



School Lunches

When we return after half term please look out for our school lunch promotions. In week 1 we will be having a Bonfire Night promotion and a Remembrance Day promotion. In week 2 for Children in Need there will be a special menu on Friday 17th November to celebrate with Pudsey cakes and biscuits. We will send you further details on Parent Pay. Please look out for this!!



Black History Month

This month in school we have been celebrating Black History Month. October is Black History Month in the UK, an event that has been celebrated nationwide for more than 30 years. It was originally founded to recognise the contributions that people of African and Caribbean

backgrounds have made to the UK over many generations.

Now, Black History Month has expanded to include the history of not just African and Caribbean people but all black people.

The children have been learning, in PSHE lessons and assemblies, about Black people who changed not only their own lives but the lives of others too, for the better and whose legacies live on today.

Their learning culminated in our Celebration Assembly where each class shared what they had learnt and how they have been inspired through this work.

Mrs Bailey



Class Events

Nursery:

This term we have been exploring 'Autumn all around us', we have collected natural items and used them to support our learning. We have created some wonderful art work using leaves.







We also had a visit from Reverend Stuart (and his cheeky monkey friend!) to help us learn about Harvest and we talked about our favourite foods. Nursery have enjoyed listening to the story 'The Little Red Hen' and re-enacting it. We have had a fabulous first half term!

Mrs Bromhall

Reception:

This half term we have welcomed our new class of children into Reception. We have focussed on the children settling well into new routines, developing independence and ensuring they are happy and ready to learn. Our theme 'Marvellous Me' really inspired us all to get to know each other. After sharing the 'Chatterboxes' that the children put together over the summer, we have talked about ourselves, our family, our favourite toy and delved a bit deeper into our body and found out about our skeleton. We have even had a skeleton called Stan in our classroom!

We have observed the changes in the weather and the seasons too. We have collected Autumn treasures to use in the classroom.

We had a fantastic attendance for our Inspire afternoon. We hope our parents gained a good insight into our Phonics and Reading scheme and can now help their child to fly with their phonics and reading!

The children have worked so hard they definitely deserve a week off!

Happy Half Term Everyone!

Mrs Brown

Year 1:

The children in Year 1 have been amazing and settled well into the new school year. They have really embraced the transition from Reception to Year 1 in such a positive way and have shown great resilience towards the new routines and their learning. We couldn't be more proud of them. We have been very busy so far this half term and have produced some super work in all areas of the curriculum.

In English, we have been learning all about the author Nick Butterworth, who writes the 'Percy The Park Keeper' stories. We have loved reading all the different books that he wrote. We especially loved 'One Snowy Night' and 'After the Storm'. These stories linked in really well with our Science unit as we are learning all about the seasons.

We also looked at David Hockney's work and how he photographed and painted landscapes during each season capturing how the light and colour varies so much. We had a go at imitating his paintings to produce our own art work. Mrs Salmon and Mrs Mandell were so impressed with what they produced!

Following on from learning about David Hockney, in our Art unit this half term, we have also been learning all about Andy Goldsworthy and looking at all the fantastic sculptures he has created using natural objects from outside. We have been inspired by his work and have been busy creating many different types of artwork. We have created leaf collages, digital artwork and sculptures using a range of 'Nature's Treasure' that we collected from home. We thought carefully about the colours and shapes we used and were so pleased with our final creations.

Mrs Salmon and Mrs Mandell

Year 2:

What a WONDERFUL start to Year 2 we've had! The children have been absorbed in their learning and have already shown great progress, but there's also been lots of fun and laughter too! We've been finding out about the Festival of Sukkot in RE, dancing in PE and exploring the lives of Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria.



Asking the children what they have enjoyed so far, they said:

- "I didn't know that Queen Elizabeth never had any children or that Queen Victoria wore black as she was sad that her husband died. Learning about the past is fun!"
- "Exploring materials in Science has been great. I've learnt how different materials are
 good for different things, like you don't make a shoe out of rock as it is too hard, but
 leather is good because it stretches. It was funny watching my friends trying to bend or
 squash the stones."
- "I have enjoyed doing Art with Mrs Mallin. We have learnt about William Morris and produced our own print and design."

Now we can't wait for the next half term (and then Christmas!!!!!)

Mr Bass

Year 3:



Year 3 have had a wonderful start to the year, they have settled in brilliantly and have risen to the challenges of Key Stage 2.

We have started our learning all about Ancient Egypt and have thoroughly enjoyed using clay and modroc to create our very own canopic jars, they are looking fantastic! In our History lessons we have been fascinated by life in Ancient Egypt, particularly when we learned about what actually went into the canopic jars!

We have been working hard on rapid recall of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables before we move on to mastering the 4 times table so thank you for all your support at home in ensuring children are accessing Times Tables Rockstars regularly, it really does make such a difference!



Finally, we have made a splash in the swimming pool each Monday, perfecting our strokes and increasing our stamina at North Solihull Leisure Centre. The swimming instructors regularly comment on the fabulous behaviour of our Year 3 children so well done everybody, you are making us very proud!

Mrs Hodge and Mrs Chamberlain

Year 4:

We are extremely proud of how seamlessly the children have settled into their new class. They are now all used to the new routines and expectations, and have embraced the challenge of the work in Year 4. All have demonstrated excellent attitudes to their learning, using lots of their BLP skills.

We have had lots of fun in our English unit where our writing has been based on the book 'Bottersnikes and Gumbles', written by S.A. Wakefield. The children have been captivated by the story and have produced some extremely creative pieces of writing. They have pushed themselves even further by challenging themselves to use the grammar that we have been working on so far this term.

In History we have spent time finding out about the Roman Empire and why they were so successful. We have been very impressed by the amazing 'Roman artefacts' that the class have been producing as homework. The children's homework journals are already looking fantastic! In Art we have looked at Roman mosaics and have really enjoyed producing our own versions using a variety of materials.

One of the key highlights for the children this half term has been starting their musical journey in learning a string instrument. They have all been extremely excited to learn about the different instruments and choosing which instrument they want to focus on this year. Even in such a short time, one piece of music has already been learnt and we are now working on our second. The string teachers have been very impressed by the children's efforts so far. Hopefully, parents will also be able to listen and follow their child's progress as instruments have now been taken home in order to practice their new musical skills.

We are looking forward to a happy and successful year ahead!



Mrs Briggs and Mrs Gibbons

Year 5

Year 5 are to be commended for the way they have settled into year 5. They have made a really positive start to the year and have been delighting their teachers with their hard work. They have produced some fantastic newspaper reports and have been enjoying reading "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" in English. We have also been persevering when tackling some tricky addition and subtraction problems in maths.

Bikeability:

Year 5 had a fabulous week of Bikeability in early October. It was a valuable opportunity to learn about keeping safe on the roads and how to take care of your bicycle. The instructors were very impressed with the children's behaviour and all children who participated now know how to keep themselves safe out on their bikes, understanding the importance of good eye-contact, clear signalling and active listening. Congratulations to all children who took part. Their positive attitude and care for each other was lovely to see, and we were so proud of their sensible attitude at all times.



Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Kermode

Year 6:

Year 6 have been learning all about WWI and WWII. To bring the Topic to life, we visited Coventry Cathedral for a tour and workshop. Over to the children...

"I realised that the classrooms back then were very different and they had to write with their right hand even if they were left handed. It was great being in an actual classroom."

"I enjoyed learning about the ruins and exactly what happened with the Cathedral. It is amazing that some parts still remain after all this time."

"The Cathedral was mesmerizing. I felt like I was actually back in WWII."

"The new Cathedral is beautiful. We were all shocked by how big it is and the view from the top."
"I remember Coventry Cathedral was destroyed by 11 hours of constant hambing 111 factories

"I remember Coventry Cathedral was destroyed by 11 hours of constant bombing. 111 factories out of 180 were destroyed and more were damaged. 500 tons of explosives were dropped on the city in those 11 hours."

"I really liked the trip. My favourite part was when we went underground. I learned how much destruction happened back then. It felt like we were actually there. I was amazed that the two beams fell in a cross position."

"There were bombed pillars and sculptures in the remains of the Old Cathedral. One sculpture was making the shape of a heart to symbolise hope and love for each other."

"I enjoyed the activities we did. We thought about what we could have brought with us back then compared to now if we were evacuated."

"We looked at photographs of people sheltering in the tube stations and drew them in chalk, adding a little colour for hope. This was a technique used by artists back then."



Miss Timothy

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival at George Fentham

On Friday the 29th September, Years 1-6 celebrated Harvest Festival at Hampton in Arden Parish Church.

Reverend Stuart led the service and talked to the children about where our food comes from and how we should all be thankful that we are able to produce our own food in this country.

As part of our ongoing mission to support others, the children brought to school packets and tins of food for the local food bank.

We would like to say a big thank you for your donations and continued support.

Mrs Bailey



Music at GFES

Carmina Burana at Fentham Hall:

On Sunday 8th October, members of Year 5 and 6 took part in a fabulous performance of Carmina Burana at Fentham Hall with the Hampton Singers and percussion students from Warwick University. This was the culmination of a few weeks of rehearsals in school with Ben Hamilton, a professional conductor and musician who works regularly with the Hampton Singers. In their weekly sessions, the children had been learning about breathing, posture and diction as well as grappling with a difficult text in Latin and other languages!

The atmosphere at Fentham Hall was fabulous and well supported by the community, and the children thoroughly enjoyed putting all they had learnt into practice along with the choir and musicians. It was a unique opportunity for the children to perform in a different venue, with experienced musicians and to have the chance to see a range of instruments and soloists performing live, something that they were all excited about.

All children rose to the occasion, supporting each other and embracing the spirit of the occasion brilliantly. They were an absolute credit to themselves and their families, and Mrs Kermode, Mrs Kelly and Mrs Durkin were very proud of the way in which they represented George Fentham. Well done!

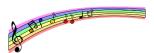




Instrumental Lessons:

Instrumental lessons have started again this half term and we are really looking forward to some of the children showing off their skills in assemblies after half term. We have a variety of singers, pianists and string players, as well as guitars and drums at George Fentham but are keen to build on this. If you are a budding musician and would like to learn an instrument next year, please sign up using the Solihull Music information which came home via Parent Pay at the end of the Summer Term or contact the School Office for further details. If you would like to discuss

financial support or instrumental hire, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Kermode or the School Office to find out more.



Sporting Activities

School Sports Clubs:

Our school sports clubs are well under way and it has been wonderful to see so many of our pupils engaged in sporting activities. Our clubs run for 10 week blocks so our current clubs will continue for 4 weeks after half term. The last sessions will be the week beginning Monday 27th November. Please note this does NOT include JET Dance, which runs independently.

We currently have a few spaces left in our clubs so If you are interested in joining, please collect an application form from the school Office.

Year 5 & 6 Football - 8 spaces -Our matches start in November so some more Year 6 children would be fantastic!

Year 3 & 4 Football - 5 spaces

KS2 Netball - 7 spaces

Ks1 Multi sports club - 5 spaces

At George Fentham, we are proud to invest a significant amount of money from the school budget to fund the Tuesday to Friday clubs so that <u>all children have equal access</u> to these sporting opportunities. In return, we expect a high level of commitment to the club and have high expectations for pupils' behaviour during the sessions.

School Sports Clubs- Have your say!

In November, I will be planning and preparing our Spring Term Club offering, please use the link below to have your say in the choice of clubs offered to the children at George Fentham. https://forms.office.com/e/f23xmnVQsE

Mrs Bradburn

Active Play Heroes

We would like to introduce our George Fentham Active Play Heroes. If your child is ever feeling unsure on the playground and doesn't know who to play with, encourage them to look out for our Play Heroes they will be easily identifiable by their blue lanyards and their smiling, friendly faces.



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Our Year 6 children were superb ambassadors for our school when they attended the Active Play heroes Training on the 12th October. They learnt about the importance of being physically active, how to organise active play games and the qualities needed to be a good role model for others.

Schools Games Mark GOLD Award

We are delighted to share with you that George Fentham Endowed School has achieved the School Games Mark GOLD Award for the academic year 2022/23. This is in recognition of the work we have done to ensure physical activity and sport are at the heart of our school; providing our children with the opportunity to enjoy and learn through competition and achieve their personal best.

A huge thank you to Mrs Bradburn for all that she has done to enable us to achieve this award.

Eco-Council - Greener Solihull Schools LEVEL 3 AWARD

Eco-Council had some wonderful news at the beginning of the term. After working on many initiatives over the course of the last school year, their final task was to pull together a presentation that show cased all of their wonderful work. This was amazing to see as it included local, national and global eco activities that involved the whole school community and really demonstrated how hard our eco-councillors had worked. This presentation was reviewed by a committee at Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and we were awarded (this is where we need a drum roll....) a LEVEL 3 AWARD, the highest award possible. We are looking forward to attending an awards event at the Council House early in November.

The bar has now been raised for next year's eco councillors! However, needless to say, there are already lots of ideas in the pipeline...

Be Bright be seen

As the nights are drawing in please ensure you can be seen and if possible wear some reflective clothing when out and about.



Attendance

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 2023/24.

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Reporting Absence and Leave of Absence Forms

Schools have a duty to account daily for all children registered at the school. Therefore, if your child is absent due to sickness or other unexpected circumstances, it is critical that you let us know by 8:30am on that day. This can be done via our phone line on 01675 442800 option 1, or through emailing the school office at office@george-fentham.solihull.sch.uk.

Please be aware, if we have not received a reason for your child's absence, we will work through your child's contact list to try to establish the reason for this absence. If after doing everything possible we are still unable to establish why your child is absent, we may escalate this to a safeguarding concern.

Parents / carers are asked to complete a Leave of Absence Form, in advance, for every absence. Please note this includes planned absences or short notice absences due, for example, for medical appointments during the school day. Forms are available by contacting the school office.

Holidays in School Time

Head Teachers are only allowed to grant leave of absence in <u>very exceptional circumstances</u> and where the application has been made <u>two weeks in advance</u>. This does not include family holidays, therefore, we ask that you do not book holidays in school time as these will be unauthorised and could lead to a referral to the Local Authority Enforcement Team for a fixed penalty fine or prosecution.

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 medication during the school day, please complete the relevant form and bring this, with the medicine, directly to the school office. Medicines must not be sent in with children.

It is really important that your child's medicine has the prescription label on it and that your instructions exactly match the dosage prescribed.

Defibrillator in School

Last term we took delivery of a defibrillator which was issued to school by the Department for Education. Whilst we hope that this is something we will never need to use, we are extremely pleased to now have this equipment on our school site.

For information, the defibrillator is located in the school office for immediate access in an emergency.

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 and complete a leave of absence request.

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 your child's record throughout school.

Healthy Schools: Break time Snacks and Water Bottles

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.

Water Bottles

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.



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.....

Our children and staff have worked extremely hard this half term and it was lovely to share the good progress the children are making during our Parent Consultations this week. We are all looking forward to half term and wish you and your family a lovely break.

School reopens on **Monday 6th November** when we will be welcoming our children back, to continue their fabulous learning journey.

Mrs J Gaughan Headteacher