



George Fentham Endowed School

Newsletter



SPRING 1 2026

TERM DATES

SCHOOL TERM & DATES	2026
SPRING TERM 2026	MONDAY 5 TH JANUARY 2026 - FRIDAY 27 TH MARCH 2025
HALF TERM	MONDAY 16 TH FEBRUARY 2026 - FRIDAY 20 TH FEBRUARY 2026
SUMMER TERM 2026	MONDAY 13 TH APRIL 2026 - MONDAY 20 TH JULY 2026
MAY DAY 2026	MONDAY 4 TH MAY 2026
HALF TERM	MONDAY 25 TH MAY 2026 - FRIDAY 29 TH MAY 2026
5 INSET DAYS (3 remain) 2026	INSET DAY 3: Monday 23 rd February 2026 INSET DAY 4: Friday 22 nd May 2026 INSET DAY 5: Monday 20 th July 2026

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 2 nd March 2026	Offer day for secondary school 2026
Tuesday 3 rd March 2026	Year 1 Explorer Day
Wednesday 11 th March 2026	EYFS Mother's Day Event
Thursday 12 th March 2026	Yr 4 Trip to Cadbury World
Thursday 16 th April 2026	Offer date for Reception 2026
Tuesday 17 th March 2026	Parent Consultations
Thursday 19 th March 2026	Parent Consultations
Monday 27 th April 2026	KS2 SEND Archery 4.30-5.30pm @ Lode Heath
Wednesday 6 th May 2026	Class photographs
Monday 11 th May - Friday 15 th May 2026	Year 6 SATS
Monday 18 th May 2026 - Thursday 21 st May 2026	Year 4 and Year 5 Bikeability
Wednesday 20 th May 2026	Yr 5 Concert @ Solihull School 12.25pm - 2.50pm
Thursday 21 st May 2026	Yr 4 Athletics Festival @ Lode Heath 4.30pm - 5.45pm
Thursday 4 th June 2026	Girls Football Festival @ Lode Heath 4.00 - 5.30pm (Yrs 3 & 4)
Monday 10 th June 2026	KS1 Disney Shooting Stars @ Light Hall School
Monday 22 nd June 2026 - Wednesday 24 th June	Yr 6 Residential - Culmington Manor



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

At George Fentham School we are committed to ensuring all children achieve the highest levels of attendance possible and continue to ask for your support in this matter. If there are any factors impacting on your child's attendance, please let us know at the earliest opportunity. We will work in partnership with you and offer all support possible in order to increase attendance.

For Autumn Term 2 (3rd November 2025 - 19th December 2025) we are pleased to say 56 children achieved 100% attendance. Well done to those children!

1st Year 2	11 out of 29 children 100% attendance	37.93%
2nd Year 3	10 out of 30 children 100% attendance	33.33%
3rd Year 6	8 out of 28 children 100% attendance	28.57%
Joint 5th Year 1	8 out of 30 children 100% attendance	26.66%
Joint 5th Year 4	8 out of 30 children 100% attendance	26.66%
6th Year 5	4 out of 22 children 100% attendance	18.18%
7th Year Reception	4 out of 30 children 100% attendance	13.33%
8th Year Nursery	3 out of 23 children 100% attendance	13.04 %

CHILDRENS MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2026

The week of 9th to 13th February 2026 was Children's Mental Health Week. The week was promoted by the children's mental health charity 'Place2Be' to raise awareness of the importance of children and young people's mental health. This year's theme is, 'This is my Place'.

What's it all about?

Research identifies that our sense of belonging as individuals, in our friendships, in schools, and in communities plays a vital role in our mental health and wellbeing.

To know our place and really feel part of our environment is a basic human need. It can have powerful and long-lasting impact in lots of areas of our lives, including our physical and mental health, education, and relationships. When we feel that we belong, it empowers us to contribute to the world and make a real difference.

This year, Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week aims to support the groups and systems surrounding our children. It encourages peers, families, schools, and communities to create inclusive and nurturing environments, where children and young people feel that they belong and could say "This is My Place".

In school, we launched the week with an assembly and the children explored the theme further in their PSHE lessons over the course of the week. Families, parents and carers can now get involved too.

Please find below a link that will provide a resource giving you top tips on how to talk to your child about their mental health and activities that you could try as a family.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/media/yrnb3g2g/families-and-communities-pack-childrens-mental-health-week-2026.pdf>



NSPCC NUMBER DAY AND TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS

NSPCC Number Day and Times Tables Rockstars

The whole school had enormous fun dressing as rockstars and number block characters on Friday 6th February. Even George Bear joined in the fun as everyone enjoyed a special Maths Assembly with a 'Beat the Teacher' quiz. Throughout the day children visited the ICT suite to take part in a national tournament on Times Tables Rockstars. There were also a number of maths investigations, poster competitions and a Battle of the Bands online.

The winning classes were as follows:

1. Year 6 - 415 point average
2. Year 4 - 231 point average
3. Year 5 - 177 point average

Well done Year 6! Great teamwork and determination. As a school we want to continue to see this enthusiasm with TTRs and engage the children further with more TTRS challenges.

Thank you to everyone for your support and hard work with outfits!

Mrs Jones
Maths Subject Leader



Mrs Mallin and Mrs Jones enjoying our Times Tables Rockstar Day!



NURSERY

We can't believe how quickly this half term has flown by! We have had such a wonderful time learning together, and we would like to thank you for your continued support.

Our half-term learning theme, 'A Long Time Ago... Dinosaurs', has been a huge success. The children have shown great enthusiasm and curiosity, and it has been a joy to see how keen they have been to learn all about these fascinating creatures. Throughout the term, the children have developed their vocabulary, confidently using new words such as extinct, palaeontologist, herbivore and carnivore in their play and conversations. It has been lovely to see them applying their learning so naturally.

The children have also created some fantastic dinosaur-themed artwork. Please take a moment to admire our amazing dinosaur paintings, silhouette and fossil art - they truly are wonderful and reflect the children's creativity and effort.

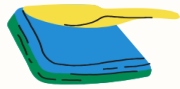
We finished our theme with a fabulous dinosaur-themed day, where the children enjoyed making fossil imprints and taking part in an exciting dinosaur hunt. It was a memorable day full of smiles, laughter, and learning.

Next half term, our new learning theme will be 'Growing'. We will begin by using the traditional tale 'Jack and the Beanstalk' to introduce this theme and explore how things grow and change.

We are very proud of everything the children have achieved this half term and look forward to another exciting half term ahead.

Warm regards,
Mrs Bromhall & Mrs Porter





RECEPTION

🦖 Roar-some Learning in Reception! 🦖

This half term, our Reception children have been stepping back in time with an exciting dinosaur theme, and what an adventure it has been! From the moment the first fossil was discovered in the classroom, curiosity and imagination have been roaring into life.

The children have loved learning about different types of dinosaurs, exploring what they ate, how big they were, and how they moved. Our small world area has been transformed into a prehistoric landscape, inspiring fantastic storytelling, role play, and collaborative play. We've been digging for "fossils" in sand and creating dinosaur art using a range of materials.

As part of our learning, the children have also enjoyed finding out about Mary Anning, a real-life fossil hunter from the past. They were fascinated to learn how she searched for fossils along the beach and helped people understand dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures. This has been a lovely way to introduce the idea that people from the past help us learn new things, and it sparked lots of thoughtful questions and discussion 🦖 ✨

This term in PE, the children have been developing their physical skills through gymnastics, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow. The children have been practising balancing, rolling, jumping, and travelling in different ways, using mats and apparatus safely and with control. They have enjoyed exploring how their bodies move and creating simple sequences. Gymnastics has supported not only their physical development, but also their listening skills, perseverance, and self-belief as they challenge themselves and celebrate their achievements.

We hope you all have a restful February half-term.
Mrs Brown and Mrs Flint





YEAR 1

Year 1 have been thoroughly enjoying their learning about Africa this term. The children have loved exploring African dancing, moving rhythmically to music from 'The Jungle Book' and showing fantastic enthusiasm and confidence in their performances.

In English, the children have enjoyed reading 'Meerkat Mail' and 'Handa's Surprise'. These stories have inspired some wonderful discussions and have helped the children develop their descriptive writing skills. The children particularly enjoyed using exciting adjectives and detailed descriptions to create their own pieces of writing linked to the stories.

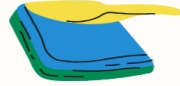
In Art, the children have been learning about the artist Gunta Stölzl. They have been fascinated by her bold use of colour, pattern, and shape. They have produced some wonderful artwork inspired by her designs. The children particularly enjoyed recreating her work using different materials and techniques.

We have also been incredibly impressed with the effort put into the homework this half term. The children have thoroughly enjoyed creating their own projects at home, and we have received some fantastic pieces, including beautiful artwork and imaginative animal models. It has been lovely to see their creativity and pride in their work shine through.

Well done, Year 1 - What a brilliant half term of learning!

Mrs Salmon and Mrs Barratt





YEAR 2

- *What a great half term we have had in class!*
- *It has been a great half term in Year 2.*
- *How was this half term in Year 2?*
- *Get on with learning in Year 2.*

The children have used their developing writing skills to produce some wonderful posters, instructions and postcards around our focus text - 'The Man on the Moon' by Simon Bartram. This included exploring the 4 different sentence types; Command, Question, Exclamation and Statement. [Can you work out which one is which for the sentences at the start of this paragraph?](#)

In Maths we have been learning about money and multiplication/division, enjoying seeing the patterns and relationships between them and finding ways to make different amounts and find change. The children also produced some FANTASTIC portraits, both abstract and traditional, based on their own image.

The children have loved our History topic - 'The Plague' - and finding out about how it started, how it spread and what people did to try and stop it. There are too many wonderful things to mention but, throughout all our topics, the children have been so focused, asking great questions and I am so proud of them.

Year 2 were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to take part in the Solihull Agility Festival, at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre, and all of the children had a wonderful time taking part in 5 different 'agility' events - Bouncer, Jumper, Thrower, Pitcher and Runner. The children had to try to 'Beat their Best', tweaking their technique each time to try and improve their own score. The scores were then collated and we now wait to find out how we did, when compared to the other competing schools from the area. The children were a credit to both the school and to you as parents, showing great perseverance and resilience, as well as demonstrating many of our School Games Values. A huge thank you to the parent volunteers who gave up their time to accompany us. **KEEP IT UP, YEAR 2!**

Mr Bass





YEAR 3

What another amazing term we have had in Year 3! The children have thrown themselves into every subject with enthusiasm and creativity. They particularly enjoyed our poetry unit, where they explored a wide range of styles including shape poems, list poems, acrostics, riddles and Kennings. Using thesauruses to extend their vocabulary and experimenting with alliteration and rhyme helped them produce some fantastic pieces of writing. Our class novel this term has been 'The Twits' by Roald Dahl, and the children have loved reading about the characters' wonderfully disgusting habits!

In Maths, we have been learning different methods for multiplying and dividing larger numbers. We have also worked hard on our x3, x4 and x8 tables, using flashcards, Numberock songs and Times Tables Rock Stars to boost confidence and fluency. Art has been inspired by the work of Henri Matisse. The children explored his approach to abstract art, focusing on shape, colour and pattern, and created beautiful torn-paper pieces in his style. They also enjoyed learning about Matisse's life and the influences behind his artwork. In Geography, we have been studying climate zones, with a focus on deserts. The children were fascinated to discover that deserts can be both hot and cold. They used their maths skills to analyse geographical data and present information in different ways, showing great curiosity and problem-solving skills. Computing lessons this term focused on using coding. We have practised using flowcharts to plan a program with timers and repeat commands. We were very proud of our final interactive scenes that we created.

Weekly swimming sessions continue to impress us. The children have been practising how to stay streamlined in the water, and we have seen a noticeable improvement in their stamina and technique. Well done Year 3—your hard work is really showing!

Mrs Jones and Mrs Chamberlain





YEAR 4

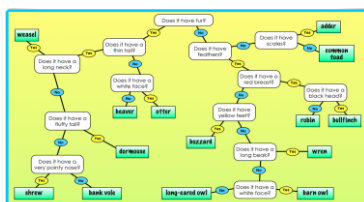
Year 4 have had another busy half term! In our History topic on the Mayan Civilisation we have learnt all about who the Mayans were by looking at artefacts as a source and what these can tell us about everyday life. Using cross-curricular links with Geography, the children used maps and atlases to locate the countries between North and South America in which the Mayans lived - an area called Meso America. We have examined Mayan society and the importance of the King (Ajaw) as the head of the hierarchy and the layers of society underneath. The children enjoyed learning about the Mayan Gods and the different offerings that Mayans would make in their worship. The ritual of blood sacrifice was a particular favourite! We can't wait to learn more about the Mayans next half term.

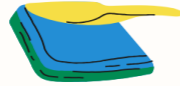
The class have really enjoyed reading and writing about 'Madame Pamplemousse and Her Incredible Edibles' this half term. In reading lessons, we have been focusing particularly on retrieving information from the text to answer questions, how to make predictions and how to use clues in the story to help us answer harder inference questions. In writing we have been exploring how Rupert Kingfisher uses adverbs in different places in his sentences and the impact this can have on the reader. We have experimented with using fronted adverbials and punctuating speech correctly in our own writing.

The children this term have really impressed us in Science with their knowledge of all animals great and small. They have worked hard developing their noticing and research skills to classify animals and plants using classification keys.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Times Tables Workshop earlier this term and I know the children enjoyed working alongside you and seeing how well you did on the multiplication check. Keep up the good work at home, as we can already see the improvement in the children's times tables scores and confidence. Well done!

Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Kermodé





YEAR 5

Year 5 have had a fun-packed start to the Spring Term. We have been continuing to learn our songs for the Solihull 'Sing Up' that we are taking part in during the month of May at Solihull School. Miss Sainsbury, from the Music department at Solihull School, has been working with us on several songs including 'Sing' written by Gary Barlow and 'Do Re Mi...' from the Sound of Music. Alongside this we have also been learning a call and response song from Africa called 'Shosholoza', playing glockenspiels and learning rhythms on African drums. It sounded amazing when performed!

In other areas of the curriculum, we have been focusing on 'Rivers' in Geography where we have learnt about the water cycle, the features of rivers such as tributaries, deltas and ox bow lakes, how rivers are formed and have used relevant vocabulary such as transportation, erosion and deposition. We have also looked at rivers in the UK and around the world.

Our Art unit on Henri Rousseau has started off well, with the children using their BLP skills in abundance to notice details in his paintings, make links with previous learning and then using all that they have learnt to produce some fantastic jungle-inspired paintings of their own. The children have worked hard on their blending and painting skills. Well done!

In English, we have been studying poetry. We have listened to poems read by Michael Rosen on the theme of 'Chocolate' - yummy! - and have written our own poems following the pattern. We have also opened 'The Magic Box' and thought creatively and imaginatively about what we would put inside, what the box would be made of and what we would do in it! There were many unicorns, kittens and puppies! The children excelled themselves and I enjoyed reading every one of them! Amazing work Year 5!

Mrs Bailey





YEAR 6

Year 6 kick-started this term's topic, India, through analysing Indian paintings and sketching intricate patterns to include a variety of lines, shapes, forms and colours. The children took inspiration from a selection of vibrant Indian artwork, which included Press Printing and Mehndi patterns. I have been amazed with the quality of the children's artwork. They are very talented. Alongside this, the children have been exploring and performing Indian dance and learning all about the location and geological features of India within their Geography lessons.

In English, the children have been enjoying the text, 'Broken Glass' by Sally Grindley. They have written non-chronological reports, setting descriptions and formal letters linked to the chapters we have read so far. I have been delighted with the effort they have made to up-level their writing through the use of cohesion, subordination and sophisticated punctuation.

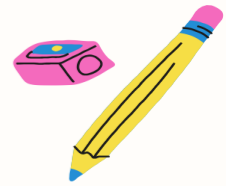
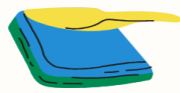
In Mathematics, I have been so impressed with the children's resilience when tackling new and complex areas such as algebra, ratio and proportion. Their ability to make links and spot patterns is growing daily. They should be very proud of themselves.

In Science, the children have been learning all about the Respiratory System to understand how our lungs work. They have also investigated how muscles move the skeleton and the importance of keeping our bodies healthy.

In Jigsaw this half term our topic has been 'Dreams and Goals'. The children have set personal goals and thought about the steps they need to take to achieve their goals. We have further thought about our dreams for the world and how we can help to make a positive difference. I have been very impressed with the maturity and thoughtfulness of the children during these sessions. Well done Year 6!

Miss Timothy





MUSIC - Mrs Kermode

Year 5 have continued their workshops for their performance in 'Solihull Sings' at Solihull School. We are very grateful to Miss Sainsbury from Solihull Prep School who has taught the children a number of different songs and actions in preparation. She and Mrs Bailey continue to be thrilled with the engagement of the children and their willingness to learn the music and actions sensibly and calmly. We look forward to their final performance in the Bushell Hall at Solihull School on Wednesday 20th May 2026 at 2:15pm. All parents and carers are very welcome to come and support the children and to celebrate their achievements before they are then collected at normal time from school.

Year 4 are enjoying their ukulele lessons as part of 'Wider Opportunities' taught by Solihull Music Service. The children have made wonderful progress so far - learning how to hold the ukelele, how to name the different parts of the instrument, the difference between strumming and plucking, and some different finger positions for particular notes and chords. The class have learnt how to play the songs 'Chasing Cars' by Snow Patrol, 'Best Day of my Life' by One Direction and 'Blitzkrieg Bop' by the Ramones. We are very proud of all the children - keep practising at home in between lessons at school Year 4.



Key Stage 1 Choir continues on a Thursday Lunchtime, and the children are very much enjoying learning the songs for 'Toys', a musical which will take place at Fentham Hall during the end of the Spring Term. They have been learning to work sensibly together as a group, how to stand and what it means to have a good posture when singing. Well done, Key Stage 1 singers, for your continued dedication and punctuality in turning up at lunchtimes. We are so proud of you!

The **George Fentham Rock Band** is now thriving on a Thursday with Mr Jones and Mrs Kermode after school. We have a wonderful group of guitarists, keyboard players, drummers and vocalists who are putting together a programme for a performance at the famous 'Cavern Club' in Liverpool during the Summer Term and includes songs 'Livin on a Prayer' by Jon Bon Jovi, 'Seven Nation Army' by The White Stripes and 'Eight Days a Week' by The Beatles. The children are working beautifully together as a group and making a very impressive sound. Well done to all taking part and thank you for your continued commitment.



Instrumental lessons have been thriving this half term with keyboard and vocal lessons now taking place in school, as well as drums, strings and guitars. As ever, if your child is an aspiring musician and would like to learn an instrument, please sign up using the Solihull Music information which came home via Parent Pay at the end of the Summer Term. There are a variety of instruments on offer, such as percussion, singing, keyboard, strings, brass and woodwind.

If you would like some advice as to which instrument might suit you, or to discuss financial support or instrumental hire, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Kermode or the School Office to find out more. Solihull Music can be contacted on: solihullmusic@solihull.gov.uk or 0121 704 6500. There are spaces available in all instruments at the moment.



SPORTS CLUBS AND SPORTING ACTIVITIES - Mrs Bradburn

George Fentham Girls Football Team Shine in 1-0 Victory

In a thrilling match, the George Fentham girls football team secured a hard-fought 1-0 win against Our Lady of Compassion. The decisive moment came when our striker Matilda, under intense pressure from two chasing defenders, broke free and found herself one-on-one with the keeper. Showing remarkable composure, she calmly slotted the ball into the net, sparking cheers from the side lines. It was a performance full of determination, teamwork, and spirit, with every player giving their all until the final whistle. A fantastic result and a proud moment for the whole team! What a way to end the season!

George Fentham Boys Football Report

What an incredible set of performances from our George Fentham boys! Three matches, three strong displays, and plenty to celebrate. The team showed skill, determination, and fantastic teamwork throughout—an excellent start to their football journey this season.

George Fentham 4 - Cheswick Green 0

A brilliant first match for the boys. The opening half saw the team finding their feet, settling into their positions, and gaining confidence as they worked together. After the break, everything clicked. The boys found their flow, and the goals began to roll in. A standout moment came from Elliott, who ran onto a well-placed through ball and stayed calm under pressure, slotting it past the keeper in a composed 1-on-1 finish. A great moment in a great team performance.

George Fentham 3 - St Augustine's 2

This was a much tougher test and a true show of character. St Augustine's proved to be strong opposition, and the boys had to battle from start to finish. Twice they fell behind, and twice they fought their way back into the game, showing real determination and perseverance.

In the final minutes, their effort paid off as they found the winning goal to seal a deserved victory. A special mention to **Albie C**, who worked tirelessly up and down the pitch—moving the ball out of danger, finding space, and helping the team stay on the front foot.

George Fentham 4 - St Patrick's 0

Although the scoreline looks comfortable, this was far from an easy match. St Patrick's were a skillful, well-drilled side, but the boys rose to the challenge superbly. The defensive line was calm and organised, backed by the safe hands of **Dan**, who made sure nothing slipped through.

Teamwork shone brightly, with **Albie S** providing fantastic support and collecting multiple assists through clever passing and awareness. But the standout moments of the match came from **Oscar**, whose goals were a display of sheer power, strength, and unstoppable tenacity – a real highlight of the evening.

Well done, George Fentham boys! A fantastic start to the season – bring on the next challenge!



Spring Clubs Update

Our Spring club programme is now in full swing, and it's been wonderful to see so many children getting involved. Archery and Girls' Football have been especially popular, with fantastic enthusiasm from all who attend.

We still have a few spaces available in KS2 Boys Football, KS2 Hockey, and KS1 Football. If your child would like to join one of these clubs after half term, please contact the school office – we'd love to welcome them!

A gentle reminder that we expect strong commitment and high standards of behaviour at all clubs so that everyone can enjoy their activities safely and happily.

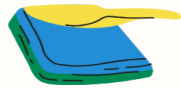
Girl Power!

This term, we've launched an exciting new initiative: a lunchtime club run by girls, for girls. The aim is to develop leadership skills and raise the profile of girls' sport across the school.

Our wonderful Year 5 and 6 leaders recently completed a training course and have already begun designing and leading fun, energetic physical activity sessions for girls in Years 3 and 4. The sessions so far have been filled with smiles, laughter, and lots of teamwork!

We can't wait to see this club continue to grow and bring even more fun throughout the spring and summer terms.





ONLINE SAFETY COMMITTEE

This half term we have been planning for 'Safer Internet Day', which was on Tuesday 10th February. The committee members helped lead an assembly (please see the separate letter sent out), around the theme of: **'Smart tech, safe choices - Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'**.

Please check out the Online Safety page on our school website, using the link below for further information and resources. <http://www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk/online-safety.html>

Mr Bass

SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council are continuing their work on wet play equipment and researching the use of the school playground. We have created some questionnaires and are looking to see if there are any patterns across the classes. We are working with Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Gaughan to look at the cost of more equipment so that we can see how much our ideas would cost to put into practice.

Mrs Jones

ECO COUNCIL

The Eco-Council have met this week to discuss their next piece of work around sustainability. Working as a group, they will work alongside various adults within school to work out the school's carbon footprint. They will gather the information required and once collated look at how this can be improved, through the use of green initiatives within school and the local community. We also discussed the school's latest energy rating (which is the lowest ever) and how we could further save energy in school.

Mrs Bailey

AND FINALLY....

Following a very busy and eventful half term, we wish you a restful and enjoyable break and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 24th February.

Mrs J Gaughan
Headteacher

