March 2024

Term Dates

SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	2023/2024	
Easter Break	Monday 25 th March 2024 - Friday 5 th April 2024	
Summer Term	Monday 8 th April 2024 - Monday 22 nd July 2024	
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May 2024	
Half Term	Monday 27 th May 2024 - Friday 31 st May 2024	
5 INSET DAYS		



Dates	for	Diary	2023	/24
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Tuesday 9th April Yr4 & Yr5 Chance to Shine Cricket Tuesday 16th April Yr4 & Yr5 Chance to Shine Cricket Monday 22nd April Yr 1 Phonics Inspire workshop (afternoon) Tuesday 23rd April Yr4 & Yr5 Chance to Shine Cricket Tuesday 30th April Yr4 & Yr5 Chance to Shine Cricket Tuesday 7th May Yr4 & Yr5 Chance to Shine Cricket Friday 10th May Class Photographs Yr4 & Yr5 Chance to Shine Cricket Tuesday 14th May Thursday 16th May Proposed Yr3 trip to Compton Verney Wednesday 12th - Friday 14th June Yr6 Residential Culmington Manor

Thursday 13th June Yr4 Cricket Berkswell
Thursday 20th June Yr4 Cricket Berkswell

Class Assemblies 2024

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to our class assemblies. Please see the **provisional** dates below (week beginning). Further individual class details will be sent out, confirming specific dates and times, next term.

Year Group	Date (week beginning)
Reception	8 th July
Year 1	24 th June
Year 2	3 rd June
Year 3	17 th June

Year 4	1 st July
Year 5	20 th May
Year 6	15 th July

Contact details/Parent Pay

Parents and carers of children in years 1-6 should have received a record sheet with all the contact details we hold for your child in school. These were sent home with your child over the last half term. Please could you check that the people listed are all still relevant and that all phone numbers and email addresses are up to date. Thank you to those of you who have amended, if necessary, and returned. If you have not received this, please could you check your child's bag. Please send back into the office as soon as possible in order for us to update our records.

Promoting Good School Attendance

At George Fentham Endowed 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.

Reporting School Absence:

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.

Change of pick up end of school day

To continue to ensure the safety of your child, please can you inform the class teacher in writing or send an email to the school office notifying us of a change to pick up at the end of the school day.

If you have emailed the office, we will do our best to let you know we have received the request and will then pass the message on to the class teacher. It is essential that these requests are received by 2:30pm so that we have time to respond.

Important -School Lunches - Paying by Parent Pay

With regards to paying for School lunches via Parent Pay, please can you ensure your child's account is credited with enough money to cover the cost of their school meals (£2.70 per day). If this is not the case, we may contact you to discuss the option of a packed lunch until any debt is cleared.

Parent Questionnaire 2024

Thank you to everyone who completed our Parent Questionnaire. Your feedback is extremely important to us and helps us to review all aspects of our work. We were delighted to see that out of 101 responses 100 parents would recommend George Fentham Endowed School to another parent.

We will now analyse all responses and provide further feedback after Easter.



Class Events

Nursery:

In Nursery we started our half-term on a Pirate Adventure; where we made our very own pirate ships and telescopes out of recycled materials. We have taken part in lots of Science based activities such as sinking and floating, planting and we even made static electricity using balloons to attract different materials. As we finish this half-term we will be learning all about Easter and why it is so important to Christians. Our new learning theme will be 'New Life'. Have a wonderful Easter break!







Mrs Bromhall

Reception:

What a busy half term it has been!

Our theme 'In My Garden' has allowed us to explore the outdoors, notice changes in the seasons, observe new growth and hunt for minibeasts, although the weather has been slightly against us! The children have enjoyed listening to and reading stories from a range of books, (including Oliver's Vegetables & Jack and the Beanstalk) and looking at non-fiction texts to find out about the growth of a bean seed and the parts of a flower. One day we found some magic beans so we planted them and now we are growing our own beanstalks! The children have the responsibility of caring for their beanstalks and they are very much enjoying the competition to see whose is the tallest! We have explored vegetables and used tools to chop them.

We have also celebrated World Book Day, Mother's Day and learnt about St David's Day and Faster.







Keep looking for signs of Spring during the Easter break!! Happy holidays Reception!!

On Thursday 21st March our Reception children supported <u>World Down Syndrome Day</u> by coming into school wearing ODD SOCKS! This day is very special to lots of our families. The children were able to talk about the importance of recognising that everyone is different, in fact we are UNIQUE and we should all celebrate this!

Mrs Brown

Year 1:

On Tuesday 5th March, Year 1 took part in an 'African Safari Explorer' day. All the children came to school dressed as explorers ready to learn amazing facts about Africa, in particular, African animals. The children looked absolutely amazing. A massive thank you to all the parents who went to so much trouble creating and making fantastic costumes.

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

Using wooden spoons, we made animal puppets and had fun adding detail and key features to our spoons. We had crocodiles, a rhino, a cheetah and many giraffes! They were all brilliant.

We used our special explorer skills to find African animals hidden around the school. We managed to spot a giraffe, a lion, a meerkat and so many more. A great day was had by all.

As well as our fantastic Explorer day, the children have fully embraced everything we have learnt in all of our other subjects. We have written fact files in English, learnt about the country of Kenya and the Masai people in Geography and found out about the five groups of animals and what they like to eat in Science. In Music we have been so impressed by the progress the children have made playing their glockenspiels; many of the children can now play a tune using three notes. In PE, Year 1 created fantastic sequences in gymnastics and really developed their hand-eye coordination and understanding of attack and defence in team games.

We are so proud of how hard all the children are working and how much effort they put into all of their work, it has been a short but fantastic term!

Have a wonderful Easter, thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to welcoming the children back for the Summer term.





Mrs Salmon and Mrs Mandell

Year 2:

In Year 2 we have had a really exciting term. Whilst it's been a short one, we've been on many 'journeys' (learning about different journey stories) in English, such as "Mr Gumpy's Outing" and "Where the Wild Things Are". In Science we have been learning about Living Things and their Habitats, enjoying searching for them around the school environment! In History, we continued our topic on the Plague, learning about the scary Plague Doctors and then began our topic about the "Great Fire of London". We've examined artefacts to see what they teach us about the past and will be writing our own diary entries, using empathy to imagine what life would have been like. We can't wait to recreate Pudding Lane, using our own Tudor houses, and to then burn it to the ground! This will help us to see how and why the fire spread so quickly. It will be AWESOME!



Mr Bass

Year 3:

Year 3 have had a short but very busy half term. We represented our school at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre competing in the 'My Commonwealth Games Personal Best Festival' alongside other schools. We took part in 7 events in total, each based on a Commonwealth sport, and we worked hard to improve our personal best scores in each event. All of our children demonstrated our school games values of respect, self-belief and determination to improve our scores. We were brilliant at cheering each other on too, well done all!

In English, we have been writing narratives based on the legend the Pied Piper of Hamelin, focusing on adventurous vocabulary, description and a variety of sentence types to add interest. We have been making sure we are meeting our writing targets each time in order to continuously improve.



Mrs Hodge

Year 4:

What a brilliant second half of the spring term we have had! This half term, we have had lots of fabulous opportunities for cross-curricular learning, bringing together all our prior knowledge of the Mayans, the rainforest and all things chocolate ©. In English, our focus has been exploring explanation texts. We have invented and designed lots of useful machines, patents pending, writing detailed explanations of how these machines will work (remembering to use our causal conjunctions of course). This style of writing was used for our final piece of writing – a detailed explanation of how chocolate is made. Naturally, a trip to Cadbury World helped to develop our understanding of the whole process! The hints and tips we found out from Cadbury World were also usefully employed when making our own chocolate lollipops in Design and Technology.







The children have continued to make fabulous progress in their string music lessons. As well as mastering the pieces of music that they have been learning throughout the year so far, this half-term saw the children introduced to reading musical notation. It really is amazing to watch their progress week on week and there is still more to come!

It was also lovely to see so many parents and carers attend our *Maths Inspire Workshop*. Our focus of the workshop was to discover why times tables are so important within the maths curriculum. Adults and their children experienced lots of the Year 4 maths curriculum, applying their times table knowledge where they could. It was a super afternoon and the children enjoyed showcasing their learning so far this year.

Mrs Briggs and Mrs Gibbons

Year 5:

This half term, Year 5 had a visit from the 'Rainforest Roadshow'. What a brilliant day they had! Dave regularly visits tribes in the Amazon Rainforest so was able to share lots of photos and experiences to deepen the children's understanding of life in a rainforest. As he has been doing this for over 20 years, he was also able to share how life has changed in recent years. Much to the children's amazement, he even showed them how to fire a blow dart.

The children spent part of the day exploring rainforest crafts such as bead making and tribal body art and then were exceptionally brave when they got to hold some rainforest animals. I don't know which was scarier, the tarantula, the giant millipede or the stick inset! Well done year 5, your good manners and the respect that you showed to our visitor and each other (through turn taking and encouraging each other) was noted - you are a credit to our school community!









Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Kermode

Year 6:

It has been a busy few weeks in Year 6 with lots of creative and hands-on experiences.

In Art, the children have been continuing to create the most wonderful Press Prints, focussing on Indian pattern and design. I have been really impressed with the attention to detail and the intricate designs.

In Design and Technology, the children have been researching Indian vegetarian curries, creating their own cost-efficient recipes using their user's choices of vegetables. As you can imagine, we had lots of fun learning how to peel, chop and grate vegetables. The results were delicious and most were very positive about the final product.

In ICT, the children have been working hard at designing and making their own text adventures and I have had great fun playing them!

We have now completed our unit of work all about India and we have wonderful memories (our current RE unit) of the whole class Bollywood dancing with great enthusiasm.

A special thank you goes out to all of the Year 6 children who have supported the younger children on the playground as <u>Playground Leaders</u> and also to those who have listened to the Year One and Year Two children read aloud, helping them to decode words and answer questions. Your enthusiasm and kindness has had a positive impact upon some of the youngest children in the school.



Miss Timothy

School Sports

South Solihull School Sports Football League Match Reports:

GFES Boys vs St Patricks

Lost 1-3

We always knew this was going to be a tough game as St Patricks were top of the table. We started with a determined attitude and played well. Their defence proved solid and they tracked back well whenever GFES attacked. St Patricks proved skilled at moving the ball from deep in defence quickly to their striker. Our goalie was amazing and prevented the score from being much higher. Our goal came from some quick thinking on a throw in, some fancy footwork in midfield

and a strong finish from our striker. Our boys deserved credit for keeping their heads in the game, when facing tough opposition.

GFES Boys vs Meriden

Won 6-2

What a great way to end our season, with a match against our local rivals, especially as we won! The first half was a close competitive game but GFES passed well and played as a team which gave them the edge. Following our first goal, the boys really got a taste for winning; their work rate and energy picked up. In the second half teamwork, our strength and stamina shone through. Well played boys!

GFES Girls vs Solihull

Won 1-0

We played against Solihull on one of the wettest nights of the season and our girls deserved lots of praise for their positivity and determination - they weren't going to let the weather put them off! Solihull were fast and had some powerful shots on goal which were saved by our fantastic goalie. George Fentham was great in defence, players tracking back to turn the play around. Time and again they put the pressure on and moved up field towards goal only to be stopped at the last moment. However, they kept going and finally got the winning goal!

GFES Girls vs Knowle

Lost 4-0

We went straight into this match following our win over Solihull but by this time the rain was so bad we could hardly see the ball and it was freezing!!! Our girls battled hard, our heads stayed up and they kept going in our match against the top of the table team. The score line does not reflect how well they played and we were delighted to hold them to a lead of 4. I was so proud of them. GFES Girls vs St George & Teresa

Lost 1-0

A really great display of team work and attacking play, so many almost goals!!! St G & T had a great defender who always managed to put herself in the way of our shots. Our defenders also played well and were good at tracking back to turn the play around. A lucky bounce went the way of St George and Teresa, leading to their winning goal.

GFES Girls vs Peterbrook

Won 1-0

This was a fantastic end to end game from two well matched teams. A surprise break from Izzy, our defender, resulted in a brilliant goal. It looked like there was more to come in this fast paced game; Hermione showed great strength as she ran attacking players into the corner, Elsie was a whirlwind and Sophie did an amazing run from deep in our half, through four of their players only to be denied by their goalie. Great pressure, strong play and super teamwork from everyone. What a brilliant match to finish on. Well done!

The league has now come to a close and we are waiting for the tables to be finalised. Fingers crossed we get through to the play offs! On a personal note, I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to all the parents who have ferried children, stood in the freezing cold and the torrential rain, and cheered us on. A special thanks goes to our team first aider Mrs Flint and guest coach Mr Fowler. Without all your support, these wonderful experiences and opportunities would not be possible - thank you.

Archery Team

On Monday 18th March we took our first GFES archery team to compete at Lode heath school. They represent the school brilliantly with their positive attitude and determination. They competed over three activities that tested their accuracy, strength and coordination. All of the team did well; scoring lots of points and improving with each performance. A fantastic team!

After school Clubs

Following another term of successful clubs, the summer offering has now been finalised.

Summer clubs will start the week beginning Monday 22^{nd} April and last sessions will take place the week begin Monday 8^{th} July.

The exceptions to this are dodgeball (which will run for the first half term) and rounders (which will run for the second half term.)

Please use the forms link to sign up to the club(s) of your choice. The deadline for sign up is 10am on Monday 15th April. After this time any remaining spaces will be bookable via the school office only.

If you have provided the necessary information, please assume your child has a place in the club. You will only be contacted if your child does NOT have a place.

Summer 2024	Lunch time	After school
Monday		Jet Dance* 3.20 -4.30pm Open access via Jet Dance
Tuesday	KS2 Ultimate Frisbee (20) Mixed invitational & open access places Adaptive Sports 12.40 -1.15pm https://forms.office.com/e/Hk1gqcwrRh	Year 1 & 2 Football (32) Open access 3.20pm -4.20pm Sports Development UK https://forms.office.com/e/4uiY3H9fMh
Wednesday	Year 3 & 4 Athletics (20) mixed invitational & open access places Adaptive sports 12.40 -1.15pm https://forms.office.com/e/e7vh55d0UC	Year 5 & 6 Athletics (32) Open access 3.20pm -4.20pm Adaptive Sports https://forms.office.com/e/KxKxg4vzhB
Thursday	Reception & KS1 Tennis (20) mixed invitational & open access places Adaptive sports 12.20 -1pm https://forms.office.com/e/HWceVxhdAS	1st Half term Year 5 & 6 Dodgeball 25.4.24 -23.5.24 Open access (20) 3.20pm -4.20pm Adaptive Sports https://forms.office.com/e/NzZBnJ3BKC 2nd Half term KS2 Rounders 6.6.24 -10.7.24 (32) Open access 3.20pm -4.20pm Adaptive Sports https://forms.office.com/e/yTJ4UHVAXE
Friday		KS2 Tennis Open access (30) 3.25pm -4.25pm Adaptive Sports https://forms.office.com/e/6SAyesszkA

^{*}We would like to remind parents that Jet Dance is an external club and to access this club you will need to contact them directly.

Mrs Bradburn

A huge thank you to Mrs Bradburn for arranging and attending so many sporting activities which our children really benefit from and thoroughly enjoy.

School Council - Mrs Bailey

This half term, our School Council have continued with their input into the review of our Anti-Bullying policy.

As a group, we have been answering big questions such as: "What would you do if you saw bullying happening?' and 'Who could you talk to if you had a worry about bullying?'

The children's opinions will then form part of our reviewed policy.

Online Safety Committee - Mr Bass

The Online Safety Committee have had a number of productive meetings this half term, taking on board the feedback from the committee members classes and coming up with an action plan. They've helped update the Online Safety display in school, looked at a range of posters to put up around school with advice about age limits for apps etc and will be offering a competition after Easter, so keep your eyes peeled for that!

Eco-Council - Mrs Briggs

Our eco-councillors have continued to do a fantastic job in steering our school towards this year's eco award. This half-term started off with 'Cut Your Carbon Week' where our eco-councillors put together a list of eight suggestions for reducing our carbon footprint. This was sent home to the pupils at George Fentham Endowed School over the half-term holiday and children were asked to feedback what they had done to help reduce their own carbon footprints. Lots of children kept a tally chart of where they had been economical and had a positive impact on their carbon footprint. This initiative helps us to work towards the Global Goal 12 - Responsible Consumption (globalgoals.org).

Our second initiative of the half term involved planning for 'World Water Day', which we will celebrate just after the Easter holidays. Councillors have been planning an assembly that aims to inform us of why water is so important.

Finally, and with a little drumroll needed, eco-councillors were extremely proud to inform their class of plans to build a 'Sustainability Garden' in the area at the bottom of the playground that is currently unused. Plans have been under wraps for a while whilst we obtained funding (a big thank you to Mr Beresford for helping us with this). Eco-councillors have now asked their classes for their ideas on what they would like to be included in the garden. We look forward to updating you with our plans and action in the near future.

Music

Young Voices:

On Friday 23rd February, Year 5 travelled by train to Resorts World Arena where they took part in 'Young Voices' along with 5000 other children from across the country.

The concert rehearsal started at 2pm in the afternoon where the children 'sang their hearts out' preparing for the main event on the evening. The children were very excited by the time their parents arrived around 6pm and the concert began at 7pm.

It was an amazing spectacle hearing and seeing all of the children singing and dancing in unison and we were so proud of how our children embraced the opportunity to perform. Well done Year 5! Thank you to Mrs Bailey, Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Kelly who accompanied the children on the day.

Cavern Club:

On Monday 18th March three of our students, one from year 5 and two from year 6 took part in the Solihull Music Festival organised by Solihull music which was held at the Cavern Club in Liverpool. This was an exciting opportunity to put their skills to the test and play in an environment with lots of musicians as schools from all over Solihull had been invited to perform across all stages to maximise the impact of the festival.

Parent Consultations

Thank you to all of our parents and carers who joined our face-to-face and online Parent Consultations this term. This was a lovely opportunity to share your child's learning journey with you and to keep you updated on the progress they are making. You are always welcome to speak with our teachers if you have any concerns or worries. This can be at the end of the school day when our children have been safely dismissed or through contacting the school office.

World Book Day

Thank you for your extraordinary efforts on World Book Day. The 'plate characters' are amazing and it was a delight to see the children so excited about their reading.





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

Year 6 - Frankie and Amy

Year 5 - Amrit and Bea

Year 4 - Albie and Bella

Year 3 - Erin and Ben

Year 2 - Josh and Elouise

Year 1 - Tayla and Sophie

Reception - Story and Harlow

Nursery - Stanley and Zach

Our new Reading Ambassadors have been appointed and will be busy over the Easter holiday reading and reviewing books to share with the school.

Mrs Brooker

Book Fair

At George Fentham Endowed School, we believe that every child should be a confident and enthusiastic reader, so our Book Fairs are an important part of our commitment to reading. The Spring term book fair was very well attended by parents and children - thank you very much for your continued support. We hope you and your child have enjoyed sharing your new books. A total of £500 worth of books was sold and the school raised approximately £80 to spend on free books across the school. We will be spending this money on books to support our 'reading for pleasure' book choices.

Bunny Bingo

On Thursday 21st March the PTFA held our second ever "Bunny Bingo" fundraising event. The evening was a huge success. Thanks to your generosity on our non-school uniform day, we had a huge amount of donated chocolate which made for exciting prizes. A huge thank you to our PTFA members for all of their hard work in organising and running this event.

UPDATE: We are delighted to announce a total of £745 was raised!! Thank you for all of your support!







Marie Curie 2024

The last two weeks of term we have had Marie Curie daffodil collection boxes in school and we have invited your children to make a voluntary donation if they wish to acquire a daffodil to wear. We still have the daffodil boxes in school due to collected in April should you wish to make a donation in return for a daffodil at the start of summer term when we return on April 8th.



Holidays in School Time

Headteachers 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.

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.



Reminder - Car Parking and Voluntary One-Way System

Thank you to all of our parents and visitors who park carefully, considering the safety and well-being of our children, families and residents.

The Nursery car park is for use by Nursery parents only at the start of the day. Please ensure your car is parked in one of the marked bays not abandoned in the entrance or exit which causes blockages in the car park and on Fentham Road.

Just to remind you, there is a voluntary one-way system at school drop off and collection times which is to enter at the bottom of Fentham Road by the war memorial and to leave the top end of Fentham Road along Marsh Lane. Thank you for your support in this matter.



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

On behalf of everyone at George Fentham Endowed School, I would like to wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable Easter holiday.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 8th April 2024.

Mrs J Gaughan Headteacher