



George Fentham Endowed School Newsletter

Happy Easter



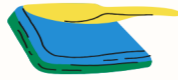
SPRING 2 2026

TERM DATES

SCHOOL TERM & DATES	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 2025-26 (2 remain)	INSET DAY 4: Friday 22 nd May 2026 INSET DAY 5: Monday 20 th July 2026

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 16 th April 2026	Offer date for Reception September 2026
Wednesday 22 nd April 2026	Y1 INSPIRE Phonics Workshop for Parents 2:15pm
Monday 27 th April 2026	KS2 Archery 4.30-5.30pm @ Lode Heath
Wednesday 6 th May 2026	Class Photographs
Friday 8 th May 2026	Year 3 Compton Verney Trip
Monday 11 th May 2026	EYFS Trip to Brandon Marsh
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 4.00pm - 5.30pm (Yrs 3 & 4)
Friday 5 th June 2026	Year 1 Trip to Herbert Museum
Monday 10 th June 2026	KS1 Disney Shooting Stars @ Light Hall School
Thursday 11 th June 2026	Year 4 Cricket Festival 10am - 2pm
Wednesday June 17 th 2026	EYFS Father's Day Event Reception 9.15am - 10.45am Nursery 10.45am - 11.45am
Thursday 18 th June 2026	Year 5 Cricket Festival 10am - 2pm
Monday 22 nd June 2026 - Wednesday 24 th June	Yr 6 Residential - Culmington Manor



LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR VACANCY

We have an opportunity for the right person to join our Lunchtime Supervisor Team. If you, or anyone you know, are interested please contact the school office for more information.



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.

NURSERY PLACES SEPTEMBER 2026

We have a few remaining places available for children who are due to start Nursery in September 2026. If your child is aged 3 by 31st August 2026 and you would like further information, please contact the school office or speak to our Early Years Team.

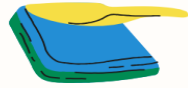
PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Thank you to all of our parents and carers who joined our Parent Consultations last week. We hope you found the opportunity to discuss your child's learning journey and look at their work really useful. 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.

MARIE CURIE DAFFODIL APPEAL

This term we have had a Marie Curie daffodil collection box in school and we have invited everyone to make a voluntary donation to acquire a daffodil to wear. We will still have the daffodil box in school after the Easter break, should you wish to donate and support this worthwhile cause.





NURSERY

This half-term Nursery has been full of excitement, discovery, and growth! Our learning has centered around the theme of 'Growing', inspired by the much-loved stories 'Oliver's Vegetables' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring these texts and bringing them to life through their play and learning.

In the classroom, the children have been busy planting a variety of seeds and have loved caring for them and watching them begin to grow. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity flourish as they learn about the different parts of a plant and begin to understand and sequence the life cycle of a plant.

We were delighted to welcome so many mums to our Mother's Day event. It was such a special time, and we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make it such a memorable occasion.

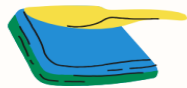
This half-term has also been filled with a number of special celebrations and events. World Book Day was a real highlight, with the children coming to school dressed as their favourite characters or hobbies. They proudly brought in their favourite stories and amazed us by sharing and 'reading' them with their friends. We have also been learning about Ramadan and Eid ul-Fitr, helping the children to understand how important this time is for our Muslim children and their families. It has been lovely to see the children sharing their experiences and learning from one another.

To finish the half-term, we enjoyed celebrating St Patrick's Day. All of EYFS took part in a fun outdoor activity, where the children used natural materials to decorate shamrocks - a fantastic way to combine creativity with the outdoors.

It truly has been a fabulous half-term, and we are so proud of all the children for their enthusiasm, curiosity, and growing confidence. Our learning theme next half-term is 'Animals'.

Mrs Bromhall and Mrs Porter





RECEPTION

Our new theme 'Growth and Spring' has allowed us to explore the outdoors, notice changes in the seasons, observe new growth and have more opportunities to be outdoors! We went for a walk around the school field and collected some natural treasures.

The children have enjoyed listening to and reading stories such as, 'Oliver's Vegetables', 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and looking at non-fiction texts to find out about seed growth and parts of a flower.

We have planted lots of seeds and the children have the responsibility of caring for the seeds. They are waiting in anticipation to see which seeds grow first! We have explored vegetables and flowers, used tools to chop vegetables to see how they look inside and used our observation skills to draw pictures.

We have also celebrated World Book Day, Red Nose Day, Mother's Day, Health week, St Patrick's Day and Easter.

Our Mother's Day event was truly fabulous, the children enjoyed spending time with their mums in school. They decorated a special jar and planted a bean seed inside.

Keep looking for signs of spring during the Easter break!

Happy holidays Reception.
Mrs Brown and Mrs Flint.





YEAR 1

We have had a wonderful Spring Term in Year 1. The children have loved learning about non-fiction texts, with a particular focus on Africa and African animals. They have enjoyed exploring different facts, reading information books, and sharing what they have discovered. We have been amazed by the super pieces of writing the children have created.

The children have also really enjoyed taking the Meerkats home. We have loved sharing the Meerkat diaries in class and looking at the children's pictures and photographs. Once again, we have had some outstanding homework returned and it has been lovely to see the effort and creativity that has gone into it. Thank you, parents, for your continued support with this.

A particular highlight of the term was our 'Explorer Day'. The children thoroughly enjoyed dressing up and taking part in a range of exciting activities while learning even more about Africa. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the day.

It has been an amazing half term. We wish everyone a wonderful Easter holiday and look forward to welcoming the children back next half term, where we will begin our learning all about 'Toys Past and Present'.

Mrs Salmon and Mrs Barratt





YEAR 2

What an exciting time it's been in Year 2! We haven't been scared!

We have been on many 'journeys' (learning about different journey stories) in English, such as 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', 'Where the Wild Things Are' & 'Mr Gumpy's Outing'. We even wrote our own version called 'We're going on a Gerry Hunt', based in school.

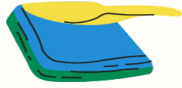
In History, the children loved learning about the Plague, especially the more gruesome bits - like the scary Plague Doctors and how the nursery rhyme 'Ring a Ring o' Roses' is all about the Plague. Learning about the 'Great Fire of London' has been FAB-U-LOUS. We've examined artefacts to see what they teach us about the past, written our own diary entries, using empathy to imagine what life would have been like and have recreated Pudding Lane, using our own Tudor houses. We are looking forward to burning them to help us better understand how and why the fire spread so quickly!

In PE, we've enjoyed creating our own games activities - collaborating together to plan, make and then test our ideas, as well as having a fabulous time dancing like penguins.

In PSHE we have also explored how to keep our mind and body healthy, identifying what helps us to relax and what might make us tense, as well as ways to deal with this. The children have worked so hard, loved their learning, and deserve a rest over Easter!

Mr Bass





YEAR 3

Year 3 have had a short but very busy half term! We loved representing our school at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre, where we took part in the *My Commonwealth Games Personal Best Festival* with lots of other schools. The children tackled seven different events, each linked to a Commonwealth sport, and showed brilliant **perseverance** as they tried to beat their personal bests. They also showed fantastic **collaboration** by cheering each other on and supporting their friends. A huge well done to everyone!

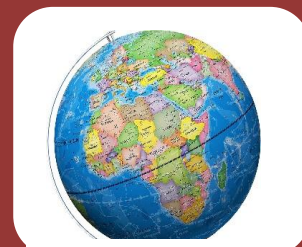
In English, we have been writing stories based on *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* by Michael Morpurgo. We have been **stretching our imagination**, trying out adventurous vocabulary and using description to bring our ideas to life. The children showed great **resilience** when editing their work, and they used **reflective thinking** to improve their sentences. They also created clear non-chronological reports, letters to the Mayor of Hamelin, and thoughtful character descriptions using lots of **noticing skills**.

Our Geography work linked nicely with this as we compared Hampton-in-Arden with Hamelin in Germany. Using atlases, the children enjoyed **making connections** between the two places and spotting similarities and differences. They worked well together, using **questioning** and **curiosity** to guide their discoveries.

In Maths, we are growing more confident with a range of times tables and having fun practising on Times Tables Rock Stars. The children have shown great **practice and perseverance**, especially when tackling trickier facts. In Science, we have been busy growing our broad bean plants and learning all about the life cycle of plants. The class used brilliant **observing and noticing** skills as our plants started to grow.

Finally, in Design and Technology, we've been designing and making fun packaging for an Easter egg bunny. Using CAD (Computer Aided Design) on PurpleMash, the children created colourful designs for their boxes. After printing them out, they reinforced and put together the nets to make sure their bunnies stayed safe and didn't get squashed!

Well done Year 3 - have a well-deserved break this Easter. You've earned it!
Mrs Jones and Mrs Chamberlain





YEAR 4

Year 4 have had a fantastic few weeks exploring the world of the Mayan Civilization and all things chocolatey! In History, we have continued learning about how the Maya made their clothes, studying how they dyed cotton threads, created patterns, and used the back-strap loom. The children also researched different farming methods and the foods the Maya ate (mostly maize and vegetables, while kings and brave warriors enjoyed plenty of chocolate!)

In Reading lessons, we have been enjoying a traditional folktale, 'The Chocolate Tree', all about the Gods the Maya believed gifted them food. We have been working hard on retrieving information, using clues to answer inference questions, comparing characters and summarising key events. In Writing, the children have created explanation texts all about – you guessed it – how chocolate is made! They have focused on sequencing ideas clearly and using causal connectives such as 'because', 'therefore' and 'as a result' to explain why each stage matters. Their growing confidence in organising information has been wonderful to see.

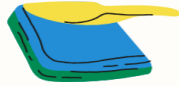
This linked beautifully with our Design and Technology work on chocolate lollipops, where the children learned about where chocolate comes from, the Cadbury family, product analysis and how to design their own creations.

All this learning came together during our exciting visit to Cadbury World. Children loved tasting melted chocolate, discovering the history of the Bournville factory, and even trying chocolate tempering. They also shone in a workshop all about the Maya. The session leader was incredibly impressed, telling us Year 4 were "the best class she had worked with recently." What a fantastic compliment!

We are so proud of how enthusiastically Year 4 have embraced this topic and how brilliantly they represented our school. Their curiosity and enthusiasm have been outstanding.

Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Kermode





YEAR 5

Year 5 have continued to make fantastic progress in their learning journey across all areas of the curriculum and I am so proud of them all.

In our Reading lessons, we have been studying the book 'White Dolphin' by Gill Lewis, which has also brought about discussion around the environmental issues of dredging and over-fishing. We have continued with our focus on poetry by reading, 'The Highwayman' by Alfred Noyes. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the different characters in the poem and relating this to real life by researching facts about Dick Turpin, the infamous British highwayman.

In Science, we have had fun mixing, filtering and exploding materials to investigate reversible and irreversible changes. The Mentos and Coke experiment had particularly spectacular results!

In Design and Technology, the children have been applying their knowledge of the properties of materials to design and make their own model houses to combat the issue of flooding in river deltas. This also correlates with our Geography work where we have been studying rivers and their features, recently moving on to Tropical Rainforests and the Amazon Rainforest. As part of this, the children have used watercolours to create their own interpretation of Henri Rousseau's picture, 'Surprised'.

In Games, we have been learning the skills need to play Tag Rugby and in Gymnastics we have looked at rhythmic Gymnastics and how we can incorporate equipment such as balls, hoops and ropes into our routines. The children have amazed me with their flexibility and creativity - Olympics here they come!

Mrs Bailey





YEAR 6

It has certainly been a busy few weeks in Year 6! Not only have we been working incredibly hard in our Maths and English lessons, but we have also had lots of creative and hands-on experiences.

In Art, the children have been creating the most wonderful Press Prints, focusing on Indian pattern and design. I have been really impressed with their attention to detail. Their final prints have been displayed in the Year 6 corridor - they look incredible.

In Design and Technology, the children have been researching Indian vegetarian curries, creating their own cost-efficient recipes using their users' choices of vegetables. As you can imagine, we will soon have lots of fun learning how to peel, chop and grate vegetables. I am looking forward to tasting the final dish.

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 are hoping to arrange for the younger children to come and play them very soon to gather important feedback from the target audience.

We have now completed our topic 'All about India' leaving us with wonderful memories of the whole class Bollywood dancing with great enthusiasm and pride - including myself!

A special thank you goes out to all the Year 6 pupils who have supported the younger children on the playground as Playground Heroes and to those who have listened to the younger children read aloud, helping them to decode words and answer questions. Your enthusiasm and kindness have had a positive impact upon some of the youngest children in the school. You should be very proud of yourselves.

You have been working SO hard this term - enjoy a restful and fun Easter!

Miss Timothy





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 to increase attendance.

For Spring Term 1 (5th January 2026 - 22nd February 2026) we are pleased to say 118 children out of 220 children achieved 100% attendance which equates to 53.6%.

Well done to those children!

1 st Year 1	21 out of 30 children 100% attendance	70%
2 nd Year 3	20 out of 29 children 100% attendance	68.9%
3 rd Year Reception	20 out of 30 children 100% attendance	66.6%
4 th Year Nursery	14 out of 23 children 100% attendance	60.8%
5 th Year 2	15 out of 29 children 100% attendance	51.7%
6 th Year 4	13 out of 30 children 100% attendance	43.3%
7 th Year 5	8 out of 21 children 100% attendance	38.09%
8 th Year 6	7 out of 28 children 100% attendance	25 %

MUSIC - Mrs Kermode

Year 5 - Ms Sainsbury from Solihull Prep School has been in again this half term to continue her work with the children. 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** and hearing them sing '*Raise My Voice*', '*I Can Go The Distance*', '*Sing*' and '*Viking Warrior*'. **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 continuing their ukulele lessons as part of 'Wider Opportunities' taught by Solihull Music Service. The children have made wonderful progress so far, learning 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 up your practice at home in between lessons at school Year 4 and keep remembering to bring in your ukulele on a Thursday.

Key Stage 1 Choir - We are so proud of all the children who took part in the musical '*Toys*', which took place at Fentham Hall on Tuesday 24th March 2026. All children attended their rehearsals with dedication and commitment and have worked sensibly together as a group. During the performance, the children demonstrated what it means to collaborate well and to have a good posture when singing. We were so impressed that they had memorised all their words and knew exactly where to stand and when to take a bow. Well done, Key Stage 1 singers. We are so proud of you!

The **George Fentham Rock Band** continues to thrive on a Thursday with Mr Jones and Mrs Kermode after school. Our wonderful group of guitarists, keyboard players, drummers and vocalists are continuing their work towards a programme for a performance 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. 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. We are so thrilled that take-up in instrumental lessons is continuing to grow but, as ever, **if your child is an aspiring musician and would like to learn an instrument, please sign them up using the Solihull Music information which came home via Parent Pay at the end of the Summer Term last year.** 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 your child, 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

Finals Night Heroics for the George Fentham Football Team!

What an incredible night of football! Our amazing boys' team headed into the league finals last week after finishing top of the table – a massive achievement in itself. Facing off against the other top-seeded teams, we knew the competition would be fierce, and our players certainly rose to the challenge.

Our first match against the Berkswell team was a total nail-biter. We started strong with Albie C scoring a brilliant opening goal, but the opposition fought back hard, leaving us 3-1 down. With the clock ticking, it looked tough, but our team showed incredible spirit. They "turned up a gear", with Oscar scoring two fantastic goals in quick succession to level the score at 3-3!

This took the game into a tense five minutes of extra time and, eventually, the dreaded penalty shootout. Sadly, it wasn't meant to be, as our sixth penalty just missed the mark.

Our second match against St George and St Teresa's was another hard-fought game, resulting in extra time and penalties. Our goalkeeper Dan did a fantastic job but in the end it was just not meant to be.

Well done to all the boys who have played and represented our school. The teamwork, grit, and skill shown by every player has been truly heroic. We are so proud of everything you've achieved this season—well done, team!

ONLINE SAFETY COMMITTEE - Mr Bass

The Online Safety Committee have met a couple of times this half term, mainly focused on supporting with the Safer Internet Day assembly back in February and then developing the Online Safety pages of the school website, looking at what information could be added and/or should be shared with parents. This will be finalised and shared after Easter. Our summer focus will then be on the use of AI and ensuring that our policies and procedures in school reflect the children's views.

SCHOOL COUNCIL - Mrs Jones

School Council are continuing to look at the use of the school playground. We are making questionnaires to find out what playground activities children would like to do for the summer term.

We also helped to choose the winners of the Times Tables Rockstar poster competition. There were so many amazing designs that it was hard to choose! Eventually we chose the following:

Year 1 - Charlie and Dilys

Year 2 - Sophie, Story and Nell

Year 3 - Emilia and Tayla

Year 4 - Olivia and Ezra

Year 5 - Chloe and Felicity

Year 6 - Auri

Well done to our competition winners and to everyone who took part!

ECO COUNCIL - Mrs Bailey

The children are continuing with their focus on calculating the school's carbon footprint. They have been allocated to groups and we are in the process of setting up appointments so that they can work with different members of staff, such as our site manager and cook to see where we can make savings or become 'greener'.



AND FINALLY....

We have enjoyed another incredibly busy and productive half term, filled with a wide range of exciting and memorable events. As always, it has been wonderful to see our children so fully engaged in their learning. I would like to thank our children and staff for their continued hard work, commitment, and enthusiasm, which make our school such a very special place.

On a personal note, I have been incredibly touched by the lovely comments and kind wishes I have received following the news that I will be leaving George Fentham Endowed School at the end of this academic year.

The Governors are continuing to work diligently to appoint a new Headteacher who will build on our school's many strengths and lead it forward into the next stage of its journey. The recruitment process is well underway, with interviews scheduled to take place after the Easter break. We look forward to sharing further news with you next term and will, of course, keep you fully informed as arrangements are confirmed for a smooth and successful transition ahead of 1st September 2026.

We wish you an enjoyable and relaxing Easter break and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 13th April 2026.

Mrs J Gaughan
Headteacher