



# George Fentham Endowed School Newsletter



SUMMER 1 2026

## TERM DATES

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| SCHOOL TERM & DATES                | 2026  |
| SUMMER TERM 2026                   | MONDAY 13 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026 - MONDAY 20 <sup>TH</sup> JULY 2026                          |
| HALF TERM                          | MONDAY 25 <sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026 - FRIDAY 29 <sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026                             |
| 5 INSET DAYS 2025-26<br>(2 remain) | INSET DAY 4: Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026<br>INSET DAY 5: Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2026 |

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

|   |  |
|---|--|
| W/B Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026  | Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check   |
| Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026   | Teacher visiting from Heart of England to meet Yr 6 pupils transitioning there in September 2026 |
| Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026   | 3.45pm Parent Information Meeting (RSE)  |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2026  | Girls Football Festival @ Lode Heath 4.00pm - 5.30pm (Yrs 3 & 4)                                 |
| Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2026  | Year 1 Trip to Herbert Museum  |
| Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2026  | KS1 Disney Shooting Stars @ Light Hall School  |
| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2026   | Year 4 Cricket Festival 10am - 2pm   |
| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2026   | Yr 6 Parent Residential Meeting  |
| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2026   | EYFS Nursery 2026 and Reception 2026 Induction Meeting   |
| Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2026  | Sports Day   |
| Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2026  | EYFS Father's Day Event<br>Reception 9.15am - 10.45am<br>Nursery 10.45am - 11.45am               |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2026   | Girl Power @ Land Rover Social Club  |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2026   | Year 5 Cricket Festival 10am - 2pm   |
| Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026 -<br>Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 | Yr 6 Residential - Culmington Manor  |
| Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2026   | Yr 2 Class trip - Car Transport Museum   |
| Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2026   | Non-Uniform Day (Hampton Festival)   |
| Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2026   | West Midlands Police Visit to Yr 6 - Transition  |
| Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2026  | Yr 5 River study - Hams Hall   |
| Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2026  | Yr 6 Transition Day to Heart of England and Arden  |
| Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2026  | 4.30pm Cheerleading Festival Year 1  |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2026  | GFES Rock Band to Cavern Club, Liverpool   |
| Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2026   | Yr 6 Tag Rugby Old Edwardians 9.30am - 2.30pm  |
| Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2026   | Yr 2 Inspire Workshop for Parents and Carers   |
| Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2026  | Yr 6 Birmingham Cathedral Leavers Service  |
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2026   | Open Evening   |



## CLASS ASSEMBLIES

| DATE   | YEAR GROUP |
|--|------------|
| Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2026                 | Year 2     |
| Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2026                | Year 5     |
| Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2026             | Year 1     |
| Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 Music Assembly | Various    |
| Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2026                 | Year 3     |
| Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2026               | Year 4     |
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2026                | Year 6     |

## PARKING AND VOLUNTARY ONE-WAY SYSTEM

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 and 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.



## 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 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026 and you would like further information, please contact the school office or speak to our Early Years Team.

## SAFETY IN THE SUN

As we move into the summer months please:

- Apply sun cream to your child **before** school. (Please note suntan lotion must not be sent in with your child.)
- Ensure your child has a sunhat for break times and during PE lessons.
- Ensure your child has a water bottle in school every day.





## NURSERY

We have had a fantastic half-term in Nursery with our learning theme all about Animals.

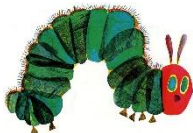
We began the term with one of our favourite stories, 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. The children were fascinated to watch our caterpillars grow and change into beautiful butterflies. They also really enjoyed observing the lifecycle of ladybirds and learning about how they grow and develop.

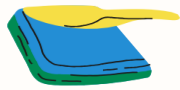
Our school trip to Brandon Marsh was a wonderful experience for everyone. The children used binoculars to observe nature and wildlife in action and showed great enthusiasm throughout the day. They made seed bombs and learnt how flowers help to support wildlife and insects. The children have since planted the seed bombs in our nursery garden and are excited to watch them grow. The children also listened to the story of 'The Ugly Duckling' and worked together to create a nest for a duck. It was a lovely experience for all of the children. The coach ride was very exciting, and eating our lunch together made the day even more memorable.

We are incredibly proud of all the children and the enthusiasm they have shown throughout this half-term.

Our new learning theme for our final half-term will be 'A Journey to Space'.

Mrs Bromhall and Mrs Porter





## RECEPTION

It has been a busy half term again! We have focused on Animals and Minibeasts. We have looked at habitats, diets, and lifecycles. We have had firsthand experiences of caterpillars and ladybirds, watching their life cycle in real time.

The children have learnt about where their food comes from - animals, the ground, trees, and bushes. Lots of children were able to talk about the food they grow at home. We read the story 'The Little Red Hen' and followed it up with some bread making. The children ate the bread with honey made from the wonderful bees!

Our trip to Brandon Marsh was really lovely. We had so much fun! We went on a bug hunt, learnt about how we can improve the natural world to encourage bees and butterflies, we made nests and a feeder for birds, but the best part of the day was lunchtime! Thank you so much to our parent helpers on the day.

We are also starting some of our transition activities in preparation for Year 1. We have been to assemblies, and the children now walk down the path in the mornings with the rest of the school.

Mrs Brown and Mrs Flint





## YEAR 1

This half term in Year 1, the children have been very busy with their learning across the curriculum. In Science, we have been learning all about plants and what they need to grow. The children particularly enjoyed planting their own tomato seeds and have loved watching them begin to grow. They are very excited to bring their plants home soon to continue caring for them.

In English, we have been exploring traditional tales, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed reading and retelling familiar stories. They have been developing their storytelling skills by describing characters and settings, sequencing events, and writing their own versions of traditional tales. The children have shown fantastic imagination and creativity in their writing this half term.

In Maths, the children especially enjoyed taking part in Money Week. They worked hard learning to recognise different coins and notes, count money, and solve simple money problems. The children loved the practical activities and role-play opportunities, which helped to build their confidence when using money in real-life situations.

In History, we started our new unit on 'Toys', which we will continue exploring next half term. The children have enjoyed talking about their favourite toys and comparing modern toys with toys from the past. We have also been learning about Victorian toys and discussing how children's play has changed over time. Charlotte brought in some amazing old toys from home!

We would also like to take this opportunity to say how hard the children have been working on their phonics this half term. They have shown great enthusiasm and determination in their reading and writing. Thank you to all the parents who attended the Phonics Workshop, your support at home makes a huge difference to the children's progress.

**Mrs Salmon and Mrs Barratt**





## YEAR 2

### History & Geography

The Great Fire of London: We didn't get the opportunity at the end of Spring 2 to burn our Tudor houses, so we were incredibly excited to finally get to do this. Seeing how narrow the streets would have been, how close together the houses were and how the wind blew the flames from house to house, helped us to better understand what it would have been like during the Great Fire of London. 'IT WAS FAB-U-LOUS!'

This half term we have been learning all about the continents, countries and cities of the world, before focusing on compass points and how to use them. We've loved using Google Earth to 'explore' Hampton in Arden, 'visit' the Pyramids and take a 'break' in the Caribbean!

### English

In our English lessons we have been enjoying 'The Lighthouse Keeper Stories' by Ronda and David Armitage. Did you know that the Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch is almost 50 years old?! We've created our own delicious lunch for Mr Grinling, designed a seagull proof basket so they can't steal his lunch and written our own version of the story.

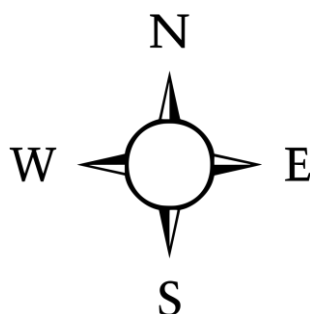
### Presentations

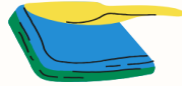
The children all chose a topic that interested them and then prepared a short presentation, which they then gave to the class. Topics ranged from Heeleys, Football, Alton Towers, Chess, Horses, Fossils, Loom Bands, Motocross, Woodworking and much more! It was clear how hard the children had prepared, with notes and scripts, props and costumes all used to make their presentations more interesting. They used clear voices, with good expression and Mr Bass was incredibly proud of them. Well done all!

### Art

We have had great fun studying Henry Moore and other famous sculptors. We then went on to create our own wire and clay sculptures, as part of our Art this half term.

Mr Bass





### YEAR 3

Year 3 have travelled back to a time before anything was written down this term... pre-history! (No iPads, no books... and no WiFi—can you imagine?!) In literacy, we have really enjoyed reading and watching ‘Stig of the Dump’ by Clive King. We wrote letters, explored dialogue and even created a police report based on events from the story—luckily, poor Stig stayed out of too much trouble!

Next, we thoroughly immersed ourselves in Stone Age life during our history trip to Compton Verney, where we took part in their Stone Age Settlers Workshop. We learned how the very first settlers made shelters and built walls using wattle and daub (which is much messier than it sounds!). We ground flour to make Stone Age bread, created our own cave paintings using natural ingredients, and our absolute favourite activity was creating a spark to light a fire—turns out matches are much easier! We decided it was very hard work being a Stone Age person, and we were exhausted by the end of the day... we prefer modern life!

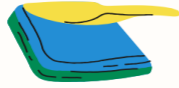
In Maths, we have been working hard to use vocabulary and drawings to support our reasoning and problem-solving with fractions of amounts. We have also continued learning our times tables and improving our heat maps—some of us are getting VERY speedy! In art, we explored the work of Quentin Blake and what makes his illustrations so unique. We enjoyed imitating his style before creating our own alien characters using exaggerated features.

Finally, in Science we have learned all about the importance of a healthy diet and the different food groups. We took part in meal-planning activities, sorted foods into groups and explored why this is important for strong joints and muscles—although a few of us still think chocolate should be its own food group!

Thank you, Year 3, for another fun-packed half term—you’ve worked incredibly hard and made me smile every day!

Mrs Jones and Mrs Chamberlain





## YEAR 4

Year 4 have had a fun start to the Summer Term. In our Ukulele lessons, the children have been continuing to perfect their performance skills on their instruments with many practicing hard at home. This makes all the difference! The children have learnt a variety of different songs now which include either strumming or plucking the instrument, such as *Chasing Cars* by Snow Patrol, *Blitzkrieg Bop* by The Ramones and *Smoke on the Water* by Deep Purple. They have been working hard to form the different chords on the frets and are coping brilliantly with the different finger positions. We are looking forward to demonstrating some of what we have learnt at the end of the Summer Term.

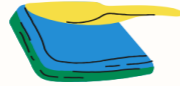
Our writing this term is connected to our class novel 'Raven Boy' by Pippa Goodhart. The children have become immersed in London life in 1666 as the plague rages through the city. As Nick Truelove (The main character) they have written some wonderfully persuasive and emotive letters to Mercy, his little sister, using their empathy skills and knowledge of the text.

Our Art unit on Hundertwasser has been an interesting and creative one. The children used their BLP skills in abundance to notice and analyse details in his paintings and architecture, making links with previous artists that they have studied this year (such as Turner and Clarice Cliffe) and then using all that they have learnt to produce some colourful pictures of their own using a range of media, such as felt tips, paint and oil pastels. All children worked hard on their blending and painting skills, and we're thrilled with their results.

We enjoyed ending our half term with our Bikeability week, an exciting first for Year 4! All children behaved well and listened very carefully to their instructors.

Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Kermode





## YEAR 5

Year 5 have had a great Summer 1 half term! We finished our Rivers and Rainforests topic and have started our History topic on the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. We have drawn maps to demonstrate where in Europe the different clans such as the Angles, Saxons or Jutes travelled from and where they settled in Britain. We have then looked at the job an archaeologist does (and how different types of soil can help to preserve or erode artefacts), and about the exciting discovery of Sutton Hoo, an Anglo-Saxon long ship with an important king buried within. We also had a discussion about who the treasure belongs to once discovered! There may be some digging going on over half-term!!!

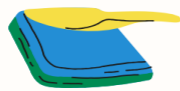
In our English lessons, we have also started studying two new books. The first, 'Viking Boy' by Tony Bradman (which dovetails beautifully with our History topic of the Anglo Saxons,) has produced some wonderful diary writing, to show how Gunnar felt when his father was taken by the Valkyries. We have also started reading 'The Purple Lady' by Jamilla Gavin and the children are being inspired to write using powerful vocabulary, similes and personification which will culminate at the start of next term, when we will write our own quest stories

On top of this we have begun our "Chance to Shine" cricket coaching and have been learning to work together as a team and bowling and batting accurately, honing our skills in time for the Cricket Festival in the second half of the Summer Term. We also enjoyed taking part in Bikeability week, ensuring we know how to ride our bikes well and stay safe on the roads.

In our Music lessons, we have been learning all about musical theatre and performance skills which has fitted in brilliantly, with us taking part in 'Solihull Sings.' The children have worked so hard to learn all of the songs and were part of a choir, along with other schools, hosted by Solihull School. The children's performance was wonderful, and I was so proud of everyone.

**Mrs Bailey**





## YEAR 6

Year 6 have been very busy this half term preparing for and completing their SATs assessments in grammar and punctuation, spelling, reading and mathematics. I have been overwhelmed with the effort the children have put into their work so far this academic year and the dedication, perseverance and resilience they have demonstrated throughout the SATs process. They calmly and maturely approached the tests. I am very proud of them.

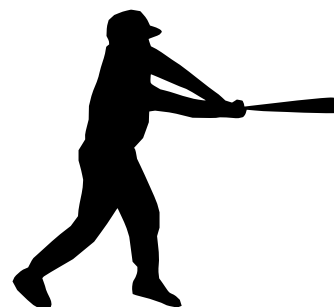
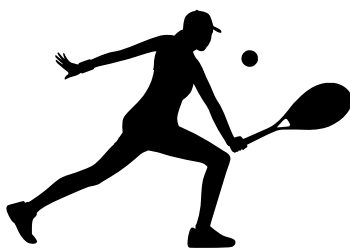
Alongside revision and exam preparation, in art, the children have been learning all about L. S. Lowry: his background, his drawing techniques and his painting style. The children have produced some wonderful drawings of industrial landscapes. There are many talented artists in Year 6 this year!

In PE, the children have thoroughly enjoyed the sunshine whilst playing a game of tennis and rounders. They have confidently demonstrated their fielding and striking abilities plus their excellent teamwork.

Year 6 are now focusing on Extended Writing, an area they have already made great progress in. The children's poems in particular were incredibly emotive and full of figurative language - well done Year 6.

After half term, I am looking forward to making our Indian vegetarian curry (after developing our chopping and food preparation skills). I hope you like it! We have so many events to look forward to, including: our Residential, swimming, a Cathedral visit, our Leavers' play, Tag Rugby coaching and a Tag Rugby Festival! I can't wait!

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 2 (23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 - 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026) we are pleased to say 114 children out of 219 children achieved 100% attendance which equates to 52.05%.

Well done to those children!

|                                |                                       |        |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Reception | 21 out of 30 children 100% attendance | 70%    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year 3         | 17 out of 29 children 100% attendance | 58.62% |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year 4         | 16 out of 30 children 100% attendance | 53.33% |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Year 1         | 15 out of 29 children 100% attendance | 51.72% |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Year 2         | 15 out of 30 children 100% attendance | 50%    |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Year 6         | 13 out of 28 children 100% attendance | 46.42% |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Year Nursery   | 9 out of 22 children 100% attendance  | 40.90% |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Year 5         | 8 out of 21 children 100% attendance  | 38.09% |

## MUSIC - Mrs Kermode

Year 5 had a wonderful time taking part in 'Solihull Sings' at Solihull School. We are grateful to Ms Sainsbury from Solihull Prep School for all she has done to encourage the children in their singing. Mrs Bailey and Mrs Kermode have been thrilled with the enthusiasm of all the children and their willingness to learn the music to the best of their abilities. The final performance in the Bushell Hall at Solihull School on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026 was a great success, and all children represented George Fentham School brilliantly. It was a fabulous opportunity to engage with other schools in the Borough and to collaborate musically with them. We are so proud of you Year 5 - what a wonderful afternoon it was!

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 up your practise at home in between lessons at school Year 4. We look forward to hearing you play towards the end of the Summer Term.

Key Stage 1 Choir is continuing on a Thursday Lunchtime, and the children are very much enjoying learning their new songs for a performance at the end of the Summer Term. They continue to be engaged, work hard and to work sensibly together as a group. 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** 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 putting together a programme for a performance at the famous Cavern Club in Liverpool on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2026 and will include songs such as *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 hard together as a group and are making a very impressive sound. All the staff are tapping their toes to the music on a Thursday after school! Well done to all taking part and thank you for your continued commitment this half term.

The whole school is very much looking forward to the **Music Assembly on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026** where children will be able to demonstrate what they have learnt in their music lessons this year.

Our take-up of instrumental lessons has grown again 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 them up using the Solihull Music information which came home via Parent Pay.** 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](mailto:solihullmusic@solihull.gov.uk) or 0121 704 6500.

#### SPORTS CLUBS AND SPORTING ACTIVITIES - Mrs Bradburn

It has been an exciting and active term in PE, with lots of fantastic opportunities for our pupils!

Our **Girls' Power Festival** was a real highlight. Girls from Years 3 and 4 attended alongside our brilliant Year 5 leaders, joining children from several other primary schools to take part in a range of mini sporting activities. We are incredibly proud of our Year 5 leaders, who organised a bowling game and confidently taught it to pupils from five other schools. They gave clear instructions, offered lots of positive encouragement, and thoughtfully adapted the activity to ensure it was inclusive for all abilities.

Our Year 3 and 4 girls had a wonderful time taking part in activities led by other schools, and they returned full of fantastic ideas to bring back to our Girl Power sessions. Their behaviour throughout the event was impeccable, and they represented our school brilliantly.



In addition, our finest archers, Penny, Kaiden, Bella and James took part in an **archery competition** against 12 other schools. Although we didn't come away with a win, the children performed brilliantly.



In **cricket**, pupils in Years 1-4 have been taking part in Dynamos and All Stars sessions. Their enthusiasm

and behaviour have been superb, and we are already spotting lots of budding cricketers. With plenty of the cricket season still to come, we encourage any interested families to contact their local club to get involved.

Our Year 4 and 5 pupils have begun training with Warwickshire cricket coaches in preparation for the upcoming Chance to Shine inter-school competition. They are looking very promising so far, and we are excited to showcase our skills in June.

Finally, our summer sports clubs are in full swing and I would like to say a huge thank you to all involved. We have a few spaces and 5 weeks left after half term and if your child would like to participate, please contact the school office before Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Well done to everyone involved – keep up the great work!

**Mrs Bradburn**

### ONLINE SAFETY COMMITTEE - Mr Bass

Our Online Safety Committee have begun discussing the role and use of AI in school. We will be creating some information booklets to support parents and children better understand how to use it effectively and safely. We have also discussed new advice around gaming age restrictions and will be sending out some information about this before half term.

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>

### SCHOOL COUNCIL - Mrs Jones

School Council had a very important job this term. They met with Mrs Jones, Mrs Chamberlain and Dr Charlton (one of our Governors) to discuss what they would like from a new Headteacher and what qualities they would like the new Headteacher to have. They decided on the questions they would like to ask and themes they would like to explore. Well done to our Councilors for being so creative and for coming up with such thoughtful ideas!

### WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

During the final week of our half term, we took part in Walk to School Week. Walk to School Week is an annual UK event, held in May, designed to encourage pupils to walk, scoot, or cycle to school to improve health, reduce traffic congestion, and cut air pollution.

The children were encouraged to think about how they get to school and to try to increase the amount they walked rather than travelling by motor vehicle.

We learnt about the positives from doing this, through an assembly, and every day the children received a sticker for their efforts. They all looked very colourful by the end of the week!

**Mrs Bailey**

### MONEY WEEK

This half term, the children have taken part in 'Money Week.' This was something that the children asked for through pupil voice. In school, we have focused upon building confidence, curiosity and self-awareness, so that they can handle the everyday ups and downs of money as they grow.

From understanding where money comes from to making thoughtful decisions about how to use it, financial education helps children connect their values and circumstances to the choices they make and feel empowered to make the most of life's opportunities.

In EYFS and Year 1, they helped Milo the Dinosaur make smart choices when spending his money or saving it and from Year 2 upwards the children looked at 5 big questions related to money and how it is used. Lots of fun was had by all as the children tackled the different scenarios and learnt that it was ok to save your money for something you really wanted.

**Mrs Bailey**



AND FINALLY....

As you can see, we have had a very busy and exciting half-term. A huge congratulations to our Year 6 children for the way they conducted themselves through SATs week. They were exceptional and showed determination and resilience every single day. We could not be prouder of each and every one of them! A huge thank you to Miss Timothy for her outstanding work with the class this year. Under her care and guidance our Year 6 children have made excellent academic progress, from their various starting points, and have truly flourished into a really superb Year 6 class.

We hope you enjoy a lovely break next week and enjoy some fabulous weather and brilliant sunshine. We look forward to welcoming the children back, for our final half term this academic year, on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026.

**Mrs J Gaughan**  
**Headteacher**