

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER 2 SUMMER 2023**



July 2023

**Term Dates**

<b>SCHOOL TERMS &amp; HOLIDAY DATES</b>	<b><u>2023/2024</u></b>
<b>Autumn Term</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 - Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2023
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 - Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023
<b>Spring Term</b>	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 - Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 - Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
<b>Summer Term</b>	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 - Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 - Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024
<b>May Day Bank Holiday</b>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
<b>5 INSET DAYS</b>	Inset Day 1: Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 Inset Day 2: Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 Inset Day 3: Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 Inset Day 4: <b>TBC</b> Inset Day 5: Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024

**Dates for Diary 2023/24**

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Tempest School Photographs
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Seasonal Childhood Flu programme

**Staffing Updates**

This term we are saying a huge thank you and farewell to a number of our staff:

**Mrs Durkin** - After 17 years as our fantastic Nursery Teacher, Mrs Durkin will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. Mrs Durkin has been an outstanding member of our team and has touched the lives of so many children and families. She has taken great care to nurture and support our very youngest children, ensuring they experience a very positive and successful start to their learning journey. Mrs Durkin has also worked incredibly hard to establish excellent relationships with parents and carers, offering reassurance and advice which I know has been greatly appreciated. Whilst we will miss Mrs Durkin hugely, we are delighted that she has agreed to continue with us, working on an occasional supply basis next year.

**Mrs Justice** - Over the last four years Mrs Justice has worked as our Finance Officer and then as our Business Manager. She has been instrumental in the effective and efficient running of our school. Mrs Justice has worked strategically, providing support to the school leadership team, whilst also ensuring the smooth day-to-day running of GF. We are extremely sad to see her go, but wish her great success in the future.

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**Mrs Khan** - We say goodbye to Mrs Khan, one of our Teaching Assistants, and thank her for all of her hard work and support. She has worked with a variety of children during her time here both in Key Stage 1 and 2. We wish her all the very best in the future.

**Miss Doyle** - At the end of the year, we will be saying goodbye to Miss Doyle, who has been working in Year 1 this year. The class teachers and children will miss her very much, but we all wish her the very best of luck as she moves on to her next adventure.

**Reminder of Staffing for Academic Year 2023/24:**

Class 2022/23	Teacher(s) 2023/24
Nursery	Mrs Bromhall
Reception	Mrs Brown
Year 1	Mrs Salmon (Mon – Tue) and Mrs Mandell (Wed – Fri)
Year 2	Mr Bass
Year 3	Mrs Hodge
Year 4	Mrs Briggs (Mon – Wed) Mrs Gibbons (Thu – Fri)
Year 5	Mrs Bradburn (Mon – Wed) and Mrs Kermode (Thu – Fri)
Year 6	Miss Timothy
Headteacher	Mrs Gaughan
Deputy Headteacher	Mrs Bailey
Special Educational Needs Coordinator	Mrs Brooker
Mentoring and PPA	Mrs Chamberlain
PPA and Cover	Mrs Mallin
Teaching Assistants	EYFS: Mrs Porter, Mrs Flint, Mrs Davenport KS1: Mrs Jones, Mrs Cuff, Mrs Barratt KS2: Mrs Collins, Mrs Kelly, Mrs Regan
Lunchtime Supervisors	Mrs Kelly, Mrs Ladwa, Mrs Shabir, Mrs Naz, Mrs John
Kitchen Staff	Mrs James (School Cook), Miss Mason, Mrs Kwong
Site Manager	Mr Rogers
Office Staff	Miss Smith (Administration Officer) Mrs White (School Business Manager)

As you will see highlighted in blue above, we have a number of staff changes in place for September 2023.

**REMINDER - CHANGE TO THE TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY FOR 2023/34**

In line with the Government's expectation that all schools should offer a minimum week of 32.5 hours, a letter was previously sent out by our Chair of Governors, Mrs Kavanagh, to update parents confirming that we have extended our school day by 10 minutes from September 2023. This has been achieved by adding on 5 minutes to the start and 5 minutes to the end of the school day. Please check below for the new timings:

Year Groups	Gate Opens / Closes	Start of School Day	End of School Day
Reception, Y1, Y2	8:40am - 8:50am	8:50am	3:20pm
Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6	8:40am - 8:50am	8:50am	3:25pm
Nursery	8:50am - 8:55am	8:55am	11:55am

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Please be aware, all children, apart from Nursery children, must be on-site by 8:50am as this is the official start to our school day. The gate leading to the playground will be closed promptly at 8:50am to enable staff to return to their classrooms and begin the day with the children.

**Any child arriving after 8:50am must be taken round to the main school office, by an adult.** You will be asked why your child is late and the reason will be added to your child's attendance record. Children arriving after this time may be given a "late" mark. **Please do not leave children at the gate after 8:50am, as they will be locked out and must be accompanied by an adult to the main office.** Thank you for your support in this matter.

#### **Defibrillator in School**

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

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

#### **Open Evening**

It was lovely to welcome all of our visitors to school on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July for our Open Evening. This was an opportunity to visit your child's classroom, look at their work and books with them, explore next year's classroom and meet the new teacher(s). We had lots of positive feedback from proud children and parents who enjoyed sharing work together.

#### **Reports Academic Year 2022-23**

Reports have now been sent out along with assessments and attendance information. Thank you to those parents and carers who have returned the report slip. **Please ensure this is completed and sent back to school before the end of term.** Thank you.

#### **Keeping Parents and Carers Informed and Updated**

Throughout the year we have continued to work hard to keep our families updated on all aspects of school life:

- Our Curriculum is available on our school website which provides a detailed overview of the curriculum planned for each year group, broken down into terms and subjects.
- In addition to staff being available at the end of the school day, we hold more formal opportunities for parents to speak with teachers through Parent Consultations and SEND Review Meetings.
- Our Class Assemblies enable us to share the children's learning journeys with you and are a great celebration of their work.
- Half termly newsletters provide lots of information about all of the things going on in school. These updates include details of class events, a wide range of sporting and musical opportunities, information on trips, visitors to school and enrichment opportunities e.g. Health Week and Anti-Bullying Week, along with updates from School Council, Eco Council and Online Safety Group. There is lots more information available, please go to our school website where our newsletters are published for reference.
- In addition, Open Evening and Reports are great opportunities to look at work and read about the progress your child has made.
- For some year groups we have held workshops for parents and carers e.g. EYFS Phonics & Reading and Year 2 Inspire: Transition and Online Safety, providing you with information and an opportunity to work with your child in school.

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- This term we invited Parents and Carers to attend an information session looking at our Relationships and Sex Education provision (RSE).
- We have lots more opportunities planned for next year so please check Parent Pay regularly where information and reminders will be sent out.

Thank you to everyone who has been able to attend events - the children love having visitors in school!

**Governors' Newsletter**

We have introduced a termly Newsletter from Governors which we hope will provide you with an overview of the work of the Governing Body. I am extremely grateful to all of our Governors who work so hard on behalf of the children, staff and families. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support and commitment to George Fentham Endowed School.

**School Meals - Increase in Price £2.70**

**Parents of children in KS2:**

Please note we have been informed that from September 23 School meals will be £2.70 per day.

Please ensure that you check your account regularly and credit your account with sufficient funds to pay for your child's school lunches. If a debt exceeds one week's school lunches a hot meal cannot be provided until the debt is cleared and the account is in credit.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Please contact the school office if you think your child may be eligible for free school meals.

**Class Events**

**Nursery:**

**Teddy Bears' Picnic**

Foundation Stage children have all invited their favourite teddy into school to join us for a picnic at the end of term. We're hoping for a lovely sunny morning so we can picnic and play on the playing field with our bears.

**Health Week**

During Health Week last month, we enjoyed a range of activities to develop our understanding of how to keep our bodies healthy. We experienced the effects of exercise on our bodies and discussed how to keep clean and how it is important to eat fruit and vegetables. Mrs Sunder, a parent who is a dentist, visited us to talk all about oral hygiene. We learnt lots of interesting things about how we can keep our teeth in top condition.

**Gardening**

Once again, Nursery children have been enjoying our garden produce this summer. We have harvested and sampled a fabulous crop of strawberries and we will be harvesting and cooking our potatoes before the summer holiday.

**Animals in Hands**

The 'Animal Man' visited us recently, bringing with him a very impressive range of animals. Nursery children had the opportunity to meet a guinea pig, rabbit, snake and a tarantula spider. They were also very curious to meet a lesser Madagascan tenrec which is an adorable little animal with spines, similar to a hedgehog.

**Sports Day**

The Nursery children all excelled at Sports Day when they took part in running and balancing races. They were also very happy to see their friends and older siblings doing well and there was lots of cheering!

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**Farm Visit**

Nursery children, staff and parent helpers had a great day out at Ash End House Farm in June. We were shown around by a very knowledgeable farmer and had the opportunity to see and feed lots of animals including lambs, ducks, goats and kids!

**Mrs Durkin**

**Reception:**

The children have had a great time learning all about animals and mini-beasts this half term. Our trip to the Parkridge Centre in Brueton Park was really enjoyable. They had so much fun singing on the coach, making potions, creating nests and looking for bugs, before sitting down for their picnic lunch!

The children performed so well at Sports Day. They got into the spirit of the day and supported their team to do their best in all the races.

We had a visit from 'Animals In Hands' who brought in lots of animals, some we'd never seen up close before. We could touch the animals if we wanted to and we learnt about the animal's habitats and diets.

The children also told the story of their year in Reception through their class assembly. They were so confident performing and speaking in front of everyone.

The children have had a super Reception year. The teachers are going to miss the children very much and wish them lots of luck and happiness for Year One.

**Mrs Brown**

**Year 1:**

**The Herbert Gallery and Museum**



On Friday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, Year 1 went to the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum in Coventry. The day began with a talk from an expert about toys, in particular Victorian toys. The session was very hands on as the children got the opportunity to dress up as Victorian children, as well as Queen Victoria. Our Queen Victoria was the perfect choice and helped organise the entire session. The children were shown a range of old toys and they compared many of them with objects and toys that we have today. The class got to play with a cup and ball, a hoop and stick, a spinning top and as a treat they took part in a race on a hobby horse!

After the session, the children split into groups and had the chance to explore the rest of the museum. They learnt about toys from different generations and saw what our parents and grandparents might have played with.

We were also so lucky to be able to see Dippy the dinosaur! He is currently residing in the museum and the children were so excited to meet him! We worked out that if we all held hands and stood in a line, we measured the same length as Dippy!

In the afternoon, another expert, at the museum, helped to develop our understanding of different works of art, including paintings from centuries ago and sculptures. The talk was

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fascinating and the children listened intently. The children got to study different sculptures in more detail, and they all enjoyed taking part in observational drawings. We were so proud of all the children and how they conducted themselves throughout the day.

It was a great day and a big thank you to our parent helpers as we could not have gone on the trip without their support.



**Pizza**

This half term was extra exciting as Year 1 got to make their very own pizzas. We started off by trying different toppings and breads to see which would be the most suitable for our own pizza. We were really proud of the children as so many embraced the taste testing and tried lots of foods that they had never had before! Once we had created our design for our 'Perfect Pizza' we spent the morning choosing the appropriate toppings and being very creative. The pizzas were then cooked and taken home at the end of the day! The smell of the pizzas cooking was delicious and the children could not wait to eat them!

**Mrs Salmon and Mrs Mandell**

**Year 2:**

**Curriculum**

This half term we've thoroughly enjoyed our topic on William Shakespeare and focused on "A Midsummer Night's Dream". This has involved researching the author/playwright, exploring the text of the play, understanding the vocabulary/language and lots of performing. Our trip to Mary Arden's Farm in Stratford was a great opportunity to immerse ourselves in the history of Shakespeare, performing where he once played (allegedly).



As part of our Design & Technology topic, we've been looking at how bread is made - exploring the journey from field to plate. The children have had great fun designing and making their own loaf. We have loved learning about Seaside - Past & Present, in Geography, as well as understanding and using compass points.

**INSPIRE Workshop**

The children, and parents, of Class 2 had a wonderful time at their "Message in a Bottle" INSPIRE Workshop. The main focus was on the transition from KS1 to KS2 and the children, with plenty of support from their helpers, produced some beautifully designed bottles and wrote some wonderful scrolls about their feelings on moving to Class 3. We also had an Online Safety focus to our workshop, with children showing their parents/guests the ICT Suite and explaining all about their Online Safety learning whilst finding and printing off images to use on their bottles. These were then passed on to Mrs Hodge, who will then go through them on their first day back in September. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and helped out - a great opportunity for children and parents to collaborate in school.



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**Tri-Golf Festival**

Following their Tri-Golf coaching sessions in Summer 1, the children in Year 2 were due to attend a tournament at Tudor Grange Pitch & Putt in Solihull this term. Unfortunately, due to the horrendous weather on the day, it was postponed. Whilst the children were understandably disappointed, they took it well and will not miss out - they can now look forward to going and competing in September!

**Mr Bass**

**Year 3:**

Year 3 have had a wonderful final term. We really enjoyed showcasing all of our learning to parents and carers in our class assembly. Thank you to everybody who came and showed their support, we loved performing!

In D&T we have designed and made a healthy sandwich for our friend, making links with our learning in Science about food groups. We had to make sure that our sandwich was balanced, which meant it had to include ingredients from a variety of different food groups. We tasted lots of different ingredients before we designed our sandwiches, so we had an idea of our preferences. In some cases, we had to be very brave when trying something new! We really enjoyed making our sandwiches and enjoyed a lovely sunny picnic in the afternoon.



**Church Visit**

Reverend Stuart recently welcomed Year 3 on their class visit to church. The children have been studying pilgrimage and rose to the challenge of thinking more deeply about the concept, under Reverend Stuart's guidance. They learned about local pilgrims who had set off on journeys of personal and spiritual growth in centuries past and found it fascinating, appreciating just how broad and far-reaching such experiences can be.

**Mrs Hodge and Mrs Chamberlain**

**Year 4:**

**Science**

What a busy and eventful final half term! Class 4's highlights this half term start with our learning in science where we have immersed ourselves in investigating how sound is made and how it travels and interacts with different materials. We really enjoyed making our own Star Wars sound effects. The theme of sound continues with our performance extravaganzas.

**Strings Concert**

Earlier this half-term, after a whole school year of working with resilience and perseverance to learn the skills and techniques needed to play their string instruments, the children were invited to perform in a string concert alongside Balsall Common School at Heart of England school. Despite some of the children being incredibly nervous on the evening, our children did us proud and they all played with confidence and precision, enjoying the experience of being on stage. We would like to thank the Fentham Trust for providing the funding for our String experience this year; the children have not only learnt how to play an instrument but have also developed and used lots of their BLP skills.



**Cricket**

In PE, over the summer term, the children have been learning the art of playing cricket. They have thoroughly enjoyed their lessons and were really pleased to be able to showcase their skills

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at a Chance to Shine cricket tournament. After competing against a number of teams from different schools, our Team A were declared overall winners of the tournament with a score of 141 runs with 11 wickets. This meant that we were invited to play in the County Cricket Finals at Moseley Cricket Club. On both occasions, the children were great ambassadors of the school games values that we try to instil through our PE curriculum.

**UPDATE: County Cricket Finals at Moseley Cricket Club - Congratulations to our Team A who went on to win the Final!!**

**Church**

As part of our RE curriculum, we managed to avoid the showers last week when we visited the local church to meet with Reverend Stuart. He demonstrated how he might baptise a baby and the children had the opportunity to ask all their questions about baptism and about the church.

**Class Assembly**

Finally, we would like to thank all the parents and carers that attended our class assembly last week. The children loved having a final opportunity to perform their music whilst sharing with you the highlights of their learning journey in Class 4.

They have worked extremely hard this year and thoroughly deserve their upcoming summer holiday. All the Class 4 teaching staff would like to thank you all for your support this year and wish you all a happy holiday.

**Mrs Briggs and Mrs Gibbons**

**Year 5**

Year 5 enjoyed an immersive day of Anglo-Saxon history with Elfhelm from Portals to the Past. The day was varied, with a mixture of activities including learning to play Fox and Geese (a traditional Anglo-Saxon board game), a quiz where the children needed to read and find out the answers to questions about different elements of Anglo-Saxon life, including crime and punishment, religion, daily life and Sutton Hoo. We then had a go at deciphering kennings and creating our own kenning poems. The children all enjoyed recreating the story of Beowulf which has also been a focus for us in our English lessons. One brave child was even allowed to try on a full tunic of iron chainmail which came down to their knees - and stayed standing up to tell the tale! We were so impressed with the behaviour of all children who maintained their focus and interest in the workshop all day, taking an active part in discussions and demonstrating their polite manners at all times. We were very proud of them.



**Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Kermode**



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**Year 6:**

It has been a very busy half term for Year 6. Not only have the children been visiting their secondary schools and taking part in transition activities, they have also been working incredibly hard at putting together their Year 6 Leavers' Performance. I am so proud of how hard they have worked and the enthusiasm they have shown. From actors, actresses and singers, to musicians, dancers and footballers - they are such a talented class.

Alongside rehearsals, Year 6 have also been improving their sewing skills creating beautiful cushion covers. They have further studied a play by Shakespeare; they wrote the most wonderful narrative retellings of Macbeth. They should be very proud of the high-quality work they produced.

I wish the whole of Year 6 every success for the future. They have been wonderful to teach and I will miss them greatly.

**Miss Timothy**

**Year 6 Residential to Culmington Manor**  
**A huge thank you to Miss Timothy, Mrs Bailey and Mrs Kelly!!**



Once SATs had finished in May, the Year 6 children were very much looking forward to their residential at Culmington Manor, in Shropshire.

We departed school on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June for 3 days of fun and sunshine.

On arrival, the children were shown to their rooms in the manor house where bunk beds were chosen. Over the course of the 3 days the children took part in 9 activities: abseiling, aeroball, archery, blind trail, bouldering, fencing, obstacle trail, zip wire and an evening walk (after which they were all well and truly ready for bed!).

The food was wholesome and enjoyed by everyone and all of the year 6 wished that they could have stayed longer. It created memories that they will never forget.

**Mrs Bailey**

**Year 6 - Good Luck!**

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July, Year 6 showcased their amazing gifts and talents in their end of year production. It was such a pleasure to watch and I could not be prouder of each and every one of them!

Under the super guidance of Miss Timothy and Mrs Kelly, the children contributed their ideas and included in their production singing, accompanied by our own musicians, dancing and super acting. The performance was so smooth, with every child knowing exactly where they should be and word perfect throughout. Photographs of the children, when they were in EYFS compared to now, reminded a very emotional audience of just how much they have grown. It was an absolute joy and pleasure to see and a fitting end to their time at George Fentham.

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At the time of writing this Newsletter, we are looking forward to our Church Leavers' Service, which will provide a further opportunity to reflect on the successes of the class.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Year 6 children for being such a fabulous class. There have been some extraordinary challenges over the last few years but thanks to the resilience and determination shown by the children, they have overcome many challenges and have done their very best. We wish them great success in the future!

**Music at GFES**

Music has continued to be an active part of daily life at school, with curriculum music lessons, famous composer assemblies and singing assemblies.

**Birmingham Symphony Orchestra**

This term we welcomed into Reception and Nursery two amazing musicians from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra who did two musical story time sessions with the children based around the story *Ruby's Worry* by Tom Percival. The children had a wonderful time and enjoyed taking part in music-making activities to accompany the story reading, showing a good sense of pitch and pulse. The workshops also included elements of PSHE, with the book beautifully explaining how Ruby is not alone and that when we talk about our worries, it can make us feel lighter.

**Instrumental Lessons**

Instrumental lessons have continued apace this half term and lots of children are starting to grow in confidence and show off their musical journeys in assemblies, to the delight of all who listen to them. We have had a variety of singers, pianists and string players, as well as guitars and drums, showcasing the wonderful talent we have at George Fentham. Some of these musicians also performed at the Hampton Festival in front of a large crowd - we are so proud of you all. Well done! **If you are a budding musician and would like to learn an instrument next year, please sign up using the Solihull Music information which has come home via Parent Pay. If you would like to discuss financial support or instrumental hire, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Kermode or the school office to find out more.**

**Junior Choir**

Junior Choir has had a fabulous turn-out this half term, with over 30 children taking part. We have been learning all about singing posture, good diction, breathing and collaboration and, as a result, the children have grown together as a group and are making a fantastic sound! We have practised a variety of different pieces and have specifically worked on *Power in Me* by Rebecca Lawrence which the choir confidently performed in an assembly. We are really looking forward to the autumn term, where we will be building on the magnificent sound that the children have produced and looking ahead to Christmas performances, amongst others.

*A huge thank you to Mrs Kermode for all her work on leading and managing music provision in school!*

**Health Week**

This half term, we have held our annual Health Week in school around the theme of "Get Healthy, Get Active".

All of the children had a skipping workshop with Rory and were given a skipping rope to take home so that they could continue to practise the skills learnt in the sessions.



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Children in EYFS, Yr1, Yr2 and Yr 4 all learnt about oral health and hygiene. These sessions were designed to encourage the children to take responsibility for cleaning their teeth and to look after their mouth and gums. Many thanks to Mrs Sunder for delivering these presentations and for the range of sample products provided to every child.



Children in KS2 all received a session on First Aid. This covered various skills such as bandaging, how to perform CPR and the recovery position.



In Years 5 and 6, a group of children went off to the Borough Athletics competition where they took part in both field and track events, competing against other Solihull schools. Several children excelled and gained bronze, silver and even gold medals.

Over the course of the week, the children also learnt in detail about a sport which they could access locally and how to play a new playground game with others.

**Mrs Bailey**

**Sports Day**

George Fentham's Annual Sports Day was celebrated on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June. KS1 kicked off the day with track races and fun for all in the morning. The egg and spoon race was strongly contested and even the threat of rain couldn't stop the smiles. Once all the scores had been added up the winning team was the **RED TEAM**. Violet, Bronwyn, & Elah were awarded the School Games Values Medals for their amazing respect through the day. Florence said, "We were great!" A huge thank you to Mr Bass and all of the KS1 team for organising such a wonderful event.

In the afternoon, the sun came out and KS2 took to the field for the javelin, shot putt, target shot and long jump before moving onto the track events. The spirit races proved very competitive, and it was brilliant seeing not only the determination of each runner but the support of the crowd cheering them on. Whilst the competition was fierce, there could only be one winner; Mrs Gaughan presented the trophy to the **RED TEAM**. Well done!! A special mention goes to Christine, Ayden, Kiran and Jacey who won the Respect School Games Values Medals in KS2- we are super proud of you! Thank you to KS2 staff for running events and encouraging the children to do their best.



Sporting Activities

**Health Week - Skipping Workshop:**

During Health Week the children at George Fentham were learning to "Get Healthy, Get Active". As part of this the whole school looked at different ways to get active. We were very lucky to have a visit from Rory, a skipping specialist, who spent the day working with children and developing different skipping skills; from the single bounce to the rodeo- the children had great fun. We were all able to share in each other's successes when we shared our talents in the assembly at the end of the day. Every child was given a skipping rope so that they can continue to keep active at home. Keep practising over the summer as there will be more chances to show off your skipping skills next academic year!

**ADDITIONAL SUPPORT**

**IF YOU'RE FINDING IT HARD...**  
Check out our Little Skippers playlist using the QR code. Here, you can find example ideas to support the development of skipping in school and at home.

**IF YOU HAVE SEND REQUIREMENTS...**  
Check out the YouSkip skipping inclusion adaptations using the QR code. Here, you can find adaptations to support pupils with SEND, with simple ideas to allow all pupils to access skipping.

**IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MORE...**  
Check out the 'Trick Series' using the QR code - which can also be found on Page 11 of this resource.  
Check out our YouTube channel. Here, you can find lots of extra challenges that you/your pupils can take part in at home.

10 @SSOLHULLSSP #CSWYOUSKIP @DAN\_DTSM

**Athletics Competition:**

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June a team of 24 children went to the Norman Green Athletics track in Solihull to take part in an athletics competition. The children had been developing their skills at athletics club after school and this was their chance to put themselves to the test. It was a brilliant opportunity with each child competing in one track and two field events. Jumping into the sandpits, running 400m around the track and sprinting in front of a roaring crowd helped make amazing memories. The team gave fabulous performances in a very competitive environment, with many children smashing their PBs and the girls came 3<sup>rd</sup> in their relay race. Well done!

Mrs Bradburn

*We would like to say a very big thank you to Mrs Bradburn for all that she does in providing so many sporting opportunities, clubs and events for our children to take part in throughout the year. This takes a huge amount of planning and time and we are extremely grateful to her.*

Summer 2 2022 Clubs & Music Lessons

Day	During the school day	After-school
Monday		3:20 - 4:30 pm Jet Dance After School Club

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Tuesday	Drum Lessons	3:20 - 4:20 pm KS2 Tuesday After School Football
Wednesday	Lunchtime Archery Club Strings Lessons Wider Opportunities - Y4 Strings	3:20 - 4:20pm Football Club
Thursday	Woodwind	3:20-4:20 pm KS2 Athletics Club
Friday	Keyboard & Guitars	3:20-4:20 pm KS1 Summer Sports Club

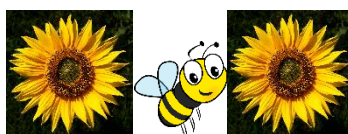
**Eco-Council**

Never to sit on their laurels, our super Eco-Councillors have continued the momentum this half-term in encouraging the children of George Fentham School to think about what contribution they can make to having a positive impact on our planet. Each week, our young environmentalists focused on different aspects of sustainability, from conserving energy to becoming recycling champions, saving water and even exploring creative ways to recycle clothes. Lots of our children, in every year group suggested ways in which they have contributed to the cause, both at home and school.

We are immensely proud of our Eco-Councillors dedication and enthusiasm to the eco cause this year. Their innovative ideas and actions have not only inspired their peers but have also sparked positive changes within our school community and beyond. It has been lovely this half term to hear of our pupils demonstrating their environmental conscience outside of the school grounds. We have had a group of year one children helping to litter pick at the Hampton Festival and we have even inspired a child in Year 4 to find out more about bees by visiting a local bee hive.

As our Eco-Council comes to its end for this school year, we would like to thank our dedicated team of Eco-Councillors. They have given up a considerable amount of their time to help organise numerous activities throughout the school year.

Don't forget to send in any photographs of your sunflowers as they grow over the holidays. What a lovely thought that this initiative has resulted in many happy bees.



**Mrs Briggs**

*Thank you to Mrs Briggs for her enthusiasm in working with our Eco-Councillors, which has enabled them to make such a positive contribution to our school (and beyond) this year!*

**School Council and Online Safety Council**

Thank you to the children who have represented their class this year on School Council and Online Safety Council. As elected representatives of their class, the children have made decisions, for example consulting on and ordering wet weather resources for each class, showing democracy in action and supporting our work on British Values in school.

*Thank you to Mrs Bailey and Mr Bass for giving up their time to support the children in this work.*

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**Attendance**

To support us to secure good attendance for all of our pupils and to address concerns regarding any child's poor school attendance and punctuality, we will be continuing to work with Central School Attendance and Welfare Service Ltd (CSAWS) in 2023/24.

Each half term, attendance registers are rigorously scrutinised to identify any attendance issues. This includes children falling below 95% attendance, children who are below 90% attendance and therefore at risk of becoming persistent absentees, children with any unauthorised absence and any punctuality concerns.

Your child may be referred to a CSAWS Attendance and Welfare Officer if their attendance and punctuality is causing concern. They will then contact you by phone, letter or home visit to discuss the school's concerns and how attendance and punctuality can be improved.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Reporting Absence and Leave of Absence Forms**

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

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

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

**Holidays in School Time**

Head Teachers are only allowed to grant leave of absence in very exceptional circumstances and where the application has been made two weeks in advance. 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.

**PLEASE ENSURE ALL MEDICATION IS COLLECTED AT THE END OF TERM FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE. NEW MEDICATION, ALONG WITH A NEW FORM, SHOULD BE SENT IN ON TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER.**

**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

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may be asked to show a copy of your appointment letter or card to the school office and complete a leave of absence request.

**Dietary Requirements / Food Allergies**

Please note it is the responsibility of Parents/Carers to advise the school office, in writing, of any dietary requirements or food allergies for each individual child. This is not required for food preferences but for medical conditions such as allergies or religious beliefs. This information will be stored on your child's record throughout school.

**Healthy Schools: Break time Snacks and Water Bottles**

**Snacks**

As part of our Healthy Schools approach, we ask for your support in **only sending in pure fresh or dried fruit and vegetables for morning snack. No other snacks are permitted.** Please note fresh fruit or vegetables are provided by school for all children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Key Stage 2 children should be provided with a fruit or vegetable snack from home.

**Water Bottles**

Children have access to their water bottles during the day and are regularly reminded to drink. Please encourage your child to do this and **ensure that drinking bottles contain water only.** Should you wish your child to have milk at break time details are available from the school office.

**No Nuts in School**

We have a number of children in school who have a severe nut allergy. These allergies can be life threatening. **In order to keep all of our children safe, please ensure that you do not send any nuts or products containing nuts into school with your child, at any time.**



**The BASE**

The BASE provides before and after school care and Nursery wrap around care during term time. The BASE is not run by school, but by a completely separate Voluntary Management Committee. If you have any queries regarding this provision, please contact Mrs Tina Coley directly on 01675 443913.

**PTFA**

The PTFA are pleased to announce that we have raised over £3,000 during this school year. This has allowed the PTFA to fund the school Christmas tree, new wet play equipment for each year group, Coronation badges and Year 6 leavers hoodies. We are also able to make a contribution towards the school playground development project. We would like to say a huge thank you to all parents/carers and school staff for their support. The committee are looking forward to the new school term in September and will provide details in due course of upcoming events, including details of how you can become a PTFA committee member or occasional helper. Thanks again and we hope you have a wonderful summer.

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Dogs near Playground Entrance



There has been a significant reduction in the number of dogs outside school at the start and end of the day. ***We would like to thank all of those Parents/Carers who have kept their dogs away from the path between school and the allotments.***

As highlighted in our previous letter, some children are frightened and nervous of dogs and have been upset coming into school. We would like to ask for everyone's help in keeping the path between school and the allotments free from dogs.

With Thanks to the Fentham Trust  
And finally.....

We have had an extremely busy year at George Fentham Endowed School and have much to celebrate. I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to The Fentham Trust for the financial support it provides to school on an annual basis. Without this support, we would not be able to provide all of the opportunities, experiences and resources which our children and staff benefit so hugely from.

On behalf of everyone at George Fentham Endowed School, I would like to thank you for your on-going support this year and to wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable summer holiday.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023.** (Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September is an INSET day.)

Mrs J Gaughan  
Headteacher