George Fentham Endowed School Newsletter

Autumn 1 2025

TERM DATES

SCHOOL TERM & DATES	2025/2026
AUTUMN TERM 2025	MONDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2025 – FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2025
HALF TERM	MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2025 – FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2025
SPRING TERM 2026	MONDAY 5TH JANUARY 2026 - FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 2025
HALF TERM	MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2026 – FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2026
SUMMER TERM 2026	MONDAY 13TH APRIL 2026 - MONDAY 20TH JULY 2026
MAY DAY 2026	MONDAY 4TH MAY 2026
HALF TERM	MONDAY 25TH MAY 2026-FRIDAY 29TH MAY 2026
5 INSET DAYS 2025/2026	INSET DAY 1: Monday September 1st 2025 INSET DAY 2: Friday 24th October 2025 INSET DAY 3: TBC INSET DAY 4: TBC INSET DAY 5: Monday 20th July 2026

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 7th November 2025	EYFS Open Day (Reception am, Nursery pm) for 2026 September intake
Monday 10th - Fri 14th November 2025	Anti-Bullying Week
Thursday 13th November 2025	Bonfire Bingo PTFA (TBC)
Friday 14th November 2025	Children in Need
Thursday 27th November 2025	PTFA Disco
Thursday 4th December 2025	Christmas Lunch/Jumpers
Tuesday 9th December 2025 and Wednesday 10th December 2025	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Performances (mornings)
Tuesday 16th December 2025 and Wednesday 17th December 2025	KS2 Christmas Performances (Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning)
Tuesday 3rd February 2026	National Childhood Measurement Programme (R & Yr6)

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

It was lovely to see parents and carers who came to our parent consultation meetings this week. We hope that you found your visit very informative and that you enjoyed looking at your child's books and the beautiful work around our school.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Well done to the 134 children who have achieved 100% attendance this half-term. After the half-term break, we will be awarding certificates to all of these children and celebrating their achievement.

Last academic school year there were **19 children who achieved 100% attendance across the whole school year**, we look forward to highlighting this fantastic achievement in our Celebration Assembly.

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

HARVEST FESTIVAL

On Friday the 10th October, Years 1-6 celebrated Harvest Festival at Hampton in Arden Parish Church. Reverend Stuart led the service and talked to the children about their favorite foods, where our food comes from and how precious food is to us. He was ably assisted by Charlie the monkey!

As part of our ongoing mission to support others, the children brought to school packets and tins of food for the local community food bank.

We would like to say a big thank you for your generous donations and continued support.

NURSERY

What a busy and exciting half-term we've had in Nursery! We've loved welcoming our new children into school and getting to know our lovely families. We are so proud of how well the children have settled into their new class and routines — it's such a joy to see their smiley faces coming into school each morning, happy and full of enthusiasm!

As part of our 'Marvellous Me' topic, the children have enjoyed exploring what makes them special. We created some fabulous self-portraits and shared our favourite things with our friends. We also spent time learning about feelings through the story 'The Colour Monster', which helped us to talk about different emotions. The children really enjoyed creating their own colourful monsters to represent how they feel. We've also been learning about the parts of our bodies. Together, we named and labelled a large body picture, helping the children to become more confident in understanding themselves.

In addition, we explored the changing seasons and created some lovely autumn-inspired artwork, using natural materials and warm autumn colours.

Looking ahead, our next learning theme will be 'Celebrations'. We'll begin the half-term by learning all about birthday traditions — always a favourite topic!

Thank you for your continued support — we're looking forward to another fantastic half-term ahead!

Mrs Bromhall and Mrs Porter

RECEPTION

This half term we have welcomed our new class of children into Reception. We have focused on the children settling well into new routines, developing independence and ensuring they are happy and ready to learn. Our theme 'Marvelous Me' really inspired us all to get to know each other. After sharing the 'Chatterboxes' that the children put together over the summer, we have talked about ourselves, our family, our favourite toy and delved a bit deeper into our body and found out about our skeleton. We have even had a skeleton called Stan in our classroom!
We read Goldilocks and the three bears and made our own porridge. We have observed the changes in the weather and the seasons too. We went on an autumn walk to look at the trees. We have collected Autumn treasures to use in the classroom and explored vegetables such as pumpkins, squash, potatoes and cauliflower.
It has been such a long half term the children deserve a week off!
Happy Half Term Everyone!

Mrs Brown and Mrs flint

YEAR 1

What a lovely start to the year we have had in Year 1! The children have settled into their new routines well and are enjoying being back at school. They come into the classroom happy, ready to learn and keen to take part in all the lessons we have planned.

In Science, we have been exploring the seasons and learning all about how our local area changes throughout the year. The children have been observing the signs of autumn, noticing how the leaves change colour and fall from the trees. They have recorded their observations and talked about why these changes happen, developing their scientific thinking and enquiry skills.

Our English lessons have been inspired by Nick Butterworth's 'Percy the Park Keeper' stories. The children have enjoyed retelling the stories, writing their own imaginative versions and practising their speaking and listening skills in our role play area. They are already producing writing full of detail and creativity too!

In Art, we have been exploring the work of the artist Andy Goldsworthy and have learnt about how he uses natural materials and patterns in his work mainly outside. The children have been looking closely at the colour and form of autumn leaves and experimented with spirals, circles and wavy designs, just like Andy Goldsworthy, producing beautiful land art that reflected the autumn colours and textures around them. Their close observation of colours and patterns helped them plan and create their pieces with great thought and care.

The children have also been brilliant with their homework, producing some lovely pieces at home. We have seen bird feeders, puppets of Percy and his friends and other creative projects as they explored nature in their gardens and local areas. They have taken care with their work, showing thought and attention to detail and it has been wonderful to see the range of ideas they have shared with the class.

Across all areas of learning, the children have been developing their 'Building Learning Power' (BLP) skills. They have shown perseverance when tackling tricky tasks, creativity in their artwork, collaboration in group work and reflection in their learning. Their teamwork and supportive attitudes make our classroom a happy and welcoming place for everyone.

We are so proud of the children's achievements already and can't wait to see how they continue to develop their skills and love of learning as the year progresses.

Mrs Salmon and Mrs Barratt

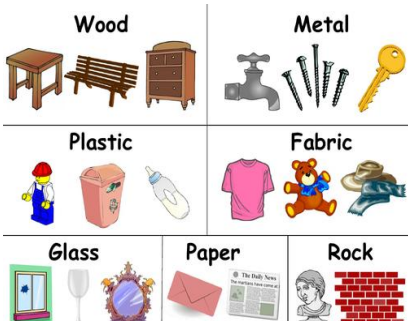
YEAR 2

Wow! What a wonderful start we've had to Year 2! The children settled in quickly and have been rising to every challenge set. We've had lots of fun and laughter (whilst working incredibly hard) and the children have realised that just because we can't do something, or we find something hard doesn't mean we give up…it just means we can't do it – **YET!!** Our focus on resilience and perseverance is helping with this.

We've been finding out all about William Morris in Art, Exploring Everyday Materials in Science and have been learning about the lives of Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria in History. In PE we have been exploring how to move to different types of music, learning about listening to the tempo and dynamics to help us. The children are loving sitting on the beanbags in our Reading Corner, reading their favourite book every morning. They have immersed themselves in our work on Traditional Tales, showing great dramatic flair.

We're now looking forward to investigating Plants in Science, continuing our journey through the lives of the two Queens (as well as Queen Elizabeth II) and beginning preparations for Christmas.

Mr Bass



YEAR 3

What a fantastic start to the year! Year 3 have settled in quickly and have taken on the new challenges of Key Stage 2 with lots of enthusiasm. This term, we're focusing on some important BLP skills—making links, distilling information, and noticing details—which are helping us become even better learners.

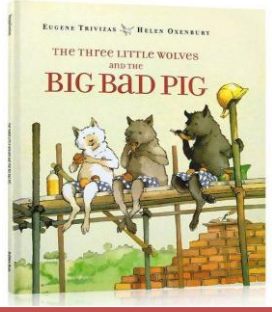
In writing, we've loved exploring different fractured fairy tales. The children have enjoyed reading them and even writing their own stories with fun twists. They've been learning how to use conjunctions, time adverbials, and inverted commas, which are making their stories even more exciting. One of their favourites so far was 'The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig'—they found it hilarious and creative!

In our history lessons, we've been diving into Ancient Egypt. The children have had lots of fun examining artefacts from the British Museum website and figuring out what they tell us about life back then. They've been fascinated by topics like mummification, the tomb of Tutankhamun, and writing in hieroglyphics. Next, in art we are busy making our canopic jars from clay and then painting them in gold and blue. We're also excited because a famous historian—Professor McGinty —is coming to visit us soon to tell us even more about this amazing civilization.

This year, we're trying something new—learning French! The children have been doing a great job with greetings, days of the week, and numbers. They're really enjoying picking up a new language.

And finally, we've been making a splash in the pool every Monday at North Solihull Leisure Centre. The children are working hard on their strokes and building up their stamina. The swimming instructors keep telling us how well-behaved and enthusiastic they are—such fantastic role models! We're very proud of all of them.

Mrs Jones



YEAR 4

What a busy half term it's been for Year 4! It has been such a pleasure getting to know the children and discovering what a lively, enthusiastic, and creative group they are. They've approached each new challenge with enthusiasm and curiosity.

In English, our learning has been inspired by 'The Adventures of Charlie Small'. The children have written letters, created imaginative island maps, and developed their vocabulary and sentence structures through character and setting descriptions. They even designed their own escape plans from those mischievous mandrills! It has been a joy to see their creativity shine as they wrote their very own Charlie Small adventures.

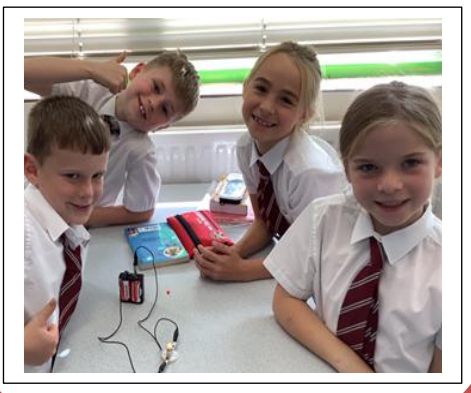
In Science, we have been exploring the fascinating world of electricity. The children have investigated circuits, tested materials to identify conductors and insulators, and learned about the difference between mains and battery power. They have also discussed the importance of electrical safety and how to stay safe around electricity.

Our History lessons have taken us back to the time of the Romans. The children have discovered how the Roman Empire grew, which countries it conquered, and what life was like for a Roman soldier. A highlight has been writing letters in role as soldiers — describing their daily routines, battles, and adventures. They have also explored Roman uniforms, weapons, and battle formations, with plenty more Roman learning still to come next half term!

We've been so busy that we almost forgot to mention that the children have also started learning how to play the ukulele!

We are incredibly proud of how hard Year 4 have worked, both in their studies and building their learning powers. Keep up the good work!

Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Kermode



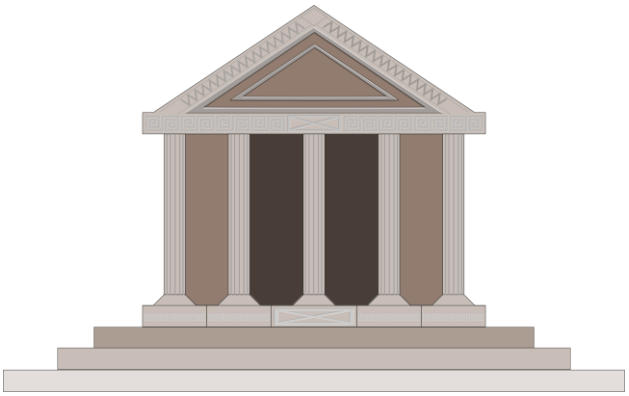
YEAR 5

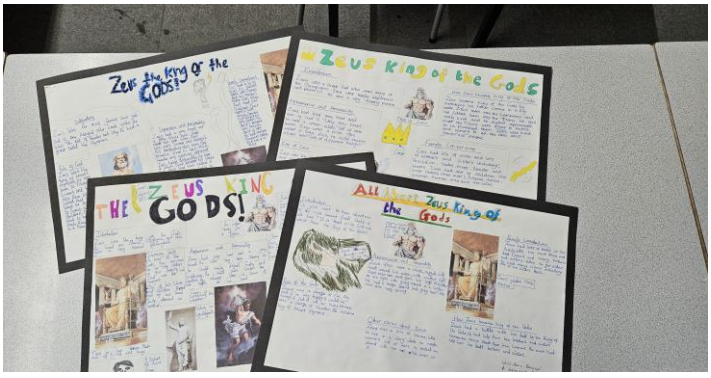
Year 5 have settled into the new term well. They have been focused on their learning and have produced some amazing work. All of them have shown responsibility and respect.

This term our History topic is Ancient Greece. We have studied where Greece is, how it has changed over the years, what it was like to live in Sparta and Athens, and how pottery shows us what life was like. This topic also links to our English work.

In English, we have been reading the book 'Who let the Gods Out?' and the children have produced some fantastic non-chronological reports on Zeus and a newspaper report about the escape of the daemon god Thanatos from jail. We are looking forward to finding out whether he will be re-captured or not!!

Mrs Bailey





YEAR 6

Year 6 have made a fantastic start to the new school year. They have displayed great resilience moving into Year 6 and have amazed me with their enthusiasm to take on responsibilities and learn new skills.

Back in September, we launched our History topic, WW1. Through research, first-hand accounts and reading the text, 'War Games', the children have discovered what it was like to live during WW1 and how Hampton-in-Arden supported the War effort. They have further produced the most wonderful poetry based on the reality of WW1, along with the most amazing symbolic collages, representing the positives and negatives of war.

It has been wonderful to observe the children demonstrate such kindness and maturity whilst carrying out their new roles and responsibilities. From door monitors at break and lunch times, PE equipment monitors, hall monitors, children taking the lunch register and children looking after the younger pupils at lunchtime; every child has demonstrated positivity and dedication. The children are taking their roles very seriously and are being wonderful role models.

The Harvest Tea also took place last week where the children baked cakes, set up a tea party and hosted the event for visiting grandparents. This was a lovely opportunity to promote inter-generational links and to consider the needs of others before our own. Through polite questioning the children were able to find out more about what life was like for this generation and then compare this with their own experiences. We all had a wonderful time. I am very proud of the children – they were such wonderful hosts.

Miss Timothy

MUSIC

Year 5 have started their workshops for their performance in 'Solihull Sings' at Solihull School next year. We are very grateful to Ms Sainsbury from Solihull Prep School who came in to teach the children several different songs and actions. She and Mrs Bailey were very pleased with the engagement of the children and their willingness to learn the music and actions sensibly and calmly. We look forward in the coming months to seeing how Year 5 are progressing in the run up to their concert.

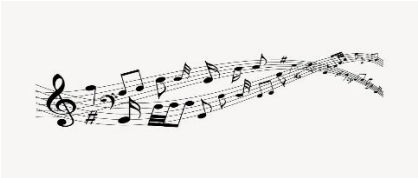
Year 4 have begun their ukulele sessions as part of 'Wider Opportunities' taught by Solihull Music Service. The children have made wonderful progress so far – learning how to hold the ukelele, how to name the different parts of the instrument, the difference between strumming and plucking, and some different finger positions for particular notes and chords. The class have been working with enthusiasm in listening activities and rhythm games, where they are learning to keep in time with a steady beat. Congratulations Year 4 on a successful half term. A huge thank you to the Fentham Trust for funding this opportunity.

Key Stage 1 Choir has started with enthusiasm on a Thursday Lunchtime, and we have been very impressed by the punctuality and engagement of the children involved. They have been learning to work together as a group, how to stand sensibly and what it means to have a good posture when singing. They are learning a variety of different songs which we know they will enjoy sharing with parents and carers when there is the opportunity to do so. Well done, Key Stage 1 singers.

The **George Fentham Rock Band** has also begun after school on a Thursday with Mr Jones and Mrs Kermode. We have a wonderful group of guitarists, keyboard players, drummers and vocalists who are putting together a programme which includes 'Livin on a Prayer' by Jon Bon Jovi and 'Seven Nation Army' by The White Stripes. We are very excited to see where they are this time next half term as they are already gelling beautifully as a group and making a very impressive sound. Glastonbury – watch out!

We have also had Mrs Ewer from Solihull Music come into school to do a singing workshop with Key Stage 2 in order to capture the imaginations of all budding singers who would like to join the **Key Stage 2 choir after half term on a Friday**. Please do let Mrs Kermode know if you are interested.

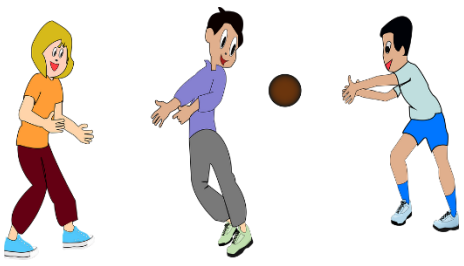
Instrumental lessons have been continuing this half term with some new pupils as well as pre-existing ones. **We are very keen to encourage more children to take up an instrument at the start of the new school year, so if your child is an aspiring musician and would like to learn an instrument, please sign up using the Solihull Music information which came home via Parent Pay at the end of the Summer Term. There are a variety of instruments on offer, such as percussion, singing, keyboard, strings, brass and woodwind.**
If you would like some advice as to which instrument might suit you, or to discuss financial support or instrumental hire, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Kermode or the School Office to find out more. Solihull Music can be contacted on: solihullmusic@solihull.gov.uk or 0121 704 6500. There are spaces available in all instruments at the moment.



SPORTS CLUBS AND SPORTING ACTIVITIES

Eight children from Year 5 took part in a Dodgeball Tournament at Lode Heath School on Monday 20th October after school. The tournament was organised by Solihull Sports Partnership and was based around their values of Honesty, Respect and Teamwork. All eight children played brilliantly and demonstrated each of these values to the very highest of standards.

Sports clubs have started well and will continue after the half-term break. There are limited spaces available in some clubs if your child wishes to join one, please contact the school office for further details.
Please note as part of our safeguarding practice, our sports coaches take registers at the start of every session. If a child is absent from the sports club the coach informs the school office. A member of our office staff then checks to find out where the child is and why they have not attended. We do this so that we can ensure the safety of every child. It is, therefore, important that you contact the school office directly to inform us if your child is not attending for a particular session or no longer wishes to attend the club. Thank you for your support in this matter.



ECO GROUP, ONLINE SAFETY COMMITTEE & SCHOOL COUNCIL

As part of supporting our children to better understand 'British Values' they are given the opportunity to vote in our school elections. These took place a few weeks ago and all children were able to be part of the process of electing representatives for our School Council, Online Safety Committee and Eco Council. By being part of this process, it allows them to begin to understand 'democracy' and 'the rule of law', as well as seeing our British Values in action. All three groups have had their first meetings, to establish what they will focus on this year. We look forward to our children raising the profile of their respective areas around school and beyond.

MACMILLAN CAKE SALE

This year we decided to hold an after-school cake sale to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you to everyone who donated cakes (homemade or purchased) and to everyone who came to our sale.

Together we raised a fantastic **£276.80** for MacMillan Cancer Support.

AND FINALLY….

As we reach the end of our first half term, I want to take a moment to thank our children, staff and families for such a positive and productive start to the 2025/26 school year. It has been wonderful to see classrooms full of enthusiasm, creativity and hard work.

Our new children have settled in brilliantly, and it has been a joy to watch each year group rise to the challenge of the next school year with confidence and enthusiasm across the school.

A huge thank you also to our parents and carers for your continued support—whether reading with your child, helping with homework, or simply encouraging a love of learning at home, your involvement makes a real difference.

We wish everyone a restful and happy half-term break and look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 3rd November ready for another busy and exciting half term ahead!

Mrs J Gaughan
Headteacher
George Fentham Endowed School