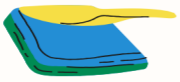
George Fentham Endowed School Newsletter

Autumn 2 2025

TERM DATES	
AUTUMN TERM 2025	MONDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2025 – FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER 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 (3 remain) 2025/2026	INSET DAY 3: Monday 23rd February 2026 INSET DAY 4: Friday 22nd May 2026 INSET DAY 5: Monday 20th July 2026

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 8th January 2026	Year 6 Health Questionnaire
Monday 12th January 2026	5.30pm Girls football George Fentham vs St Patrick's @ Solihull Prep
Thursday 15th January 2026	Year 6 Health Questionnaire follow-up
Thursday 15th January 2026	Closing date for Reception applications 2026/27
Tuesday 20th January 2026	4pm Girls football George Fentham vs St Andrew's 4.30pm Girls football George Fentham vs OLC 5.30pm Boys football George Fentham vs Cheswick Green, all matches @ Sils
Friday 30th January 2026	Offer date for George Fentham Nursery 2026/27
Tuesday 3rd February 2026	National Childhood Measurement Programme (R & Yr6)
Tuesday 3rd February 2026	4pm Boys football George Fentham vs St Augustine's 5pm Boys football George Fentham vs St Patrick's @ Sils
Thursday February 12th 2026	5pm Boys football George Fentham vs Mill Lodge 5.30pm Boys football George Fentham vs G & T @ Moors
Monday 2nd March 2026	Offer day for Secondary School 2026/27
Thursday 16th April 2026	Offer date for Reception 2026/27
Wednesday 6th May 2026	Class photographs
Monday 22nd June 2026- Wednesday 24th June 2026	Yr 6 Residential – Culmington Manor



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 levels.
For Autumn Term 1 (September 2nd 2025 - October 24th 2025) we are pleased to say 130 children achieved 100% attendance. Well done to those children!

Year Group	Number of Children	Percentage
Year R	24 out of 30 children 100% attendance	80.00%
Year 5	15 out of 22 children 100% attendance	68.18%
Year 4	20 out of 30 children 100% attendance	66.66%
Year 2	17 out of 29 children 100% attendance	58.62%
Year 3	17 out of 30 children 100% attendance	56.66%
Nursery	11 out of 22 children 100% attendance	50.00%
Year 1	14 out of 28 children 100% attendance	46.66%
Year 6	12 out of 29 children 100% attendance	41.37 %

CHILDREN IN NEED

We are very proud to tell you that George Fentham Endowed School raised £316.00 for Children in Need. This year we challenged the children to come into school on Children in Need day wearing as many colours as they could and they all looked really fantastic in their brightly coloured clothes! Thank you to everyone for your support towards this cause.

POPPY APPEAL

Message from: Knowle & District Branch Remembrance, Poppy Appeal

Thank You for your kind donation of
£284.62
From George Fentham School

NURSERY

What a wonderful half term we have had in Nursery with our 'Let's Celebrate' learning theme. We began by learning all about Bonfire Night and created some fantastic firework art using pastels and glitter. The children also enjoyed exploring birthdays, and we even held a fabulous birthday party for our class bunnies which included trying some new and exciting foods!

As Christmas approached, the fun continued with lots of festive activities and the making of some lovely surprises, many of which have already been shared with families. We were especially amazed by the children's Christmas Performance. They were so brave performing in front of all the grown-ups, and it was a joy to see our natural-born performers shine as well as those who were a little nervous overcome their worries and gain a real sense of achievement. We are incredibly proud of every single one of them.

We wish all our families a restful and merry Christmas, and we look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year when our new learning theme will be 'A Long Time Ago… Dinosaurs!'

Mrs Bromhall & Mrs Porter

RECEPTION

This term's theme 'Let's Celebrate' has allowed us to explore lots of different Celebrations which we are familiar with and learn about some new ones that happen around the world. We have also celebrated our own achievements such as football, kick boxing and dance awards that happen outside of school.

We started off with Diwali, the Festival of Light, then we moved onto Bonfire Night, where we noticed links with Diwali because of all the lights and fireworks. The children found out who Guy Fawkes was and the meaning behind Bonfire Night celebrations.

Next, we focused on Birthdays and celebrated our class bear's birthday. We made a cake, birthday cards and decorations. We also tasted food from other countries and had a birthday party with Nursery.

Our theme finished with Christmas. In RE lessons, we explored the Nativity story and made a traditional nativity scene. We have read lots of stories, old and new and designed and made a card and calendar for our families. We took part in the EYFS/KS1 Christmas Performance, singing our hearts out and braving the stage, what an achievement! The teachers were so proud of everyone.
It has been an extremely busy half term; we are all ready for a well-deserved holiday.

Mrs Brown and Mrs Flint

YEAR 1

What a fantastic half term we have had in Year 1. The children have been absolute superstars and they have worked so hard every single day.

In English we enjoyed our work on the story 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth'. The children created their own brilliant mammoths, at home, for homework and their imaginations and creative flare really shone. We also learnt about Mog and her Christmas adventure. Mog did not mean to set the house on fire and thankfully she did not ruin Christmas because the neighbours all came together to help. This message of kindness fits in so well with the kindness our Year 1 children show each other every day.

Another highlight of the half term was our Christmas Play, 'The Bossy King'. Standing on stage in front of everyone can feel daunting and the children were amazing. We are very proud of their confidence and all the hard work they put into making the performance so special.

We also had a very exciting visitor from the North Pole. Our Year 1 Elf arrived and he has been spreading festive fun and a little mischief throughout the Year 1 classroom!

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your wonderful support this term. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a lovely New Year. Enjoy the break and have fun making special memories together.

Mrs Salmon and Mrs Barratt

YEAR 2

We've had a wonderful half term in Year 2, continuing our learning journey with lots of questioning, independence, laughter, and plenty of resilience! Some of our highlights have included:

“It was fun designing and making our own chair for a traditional tale character. I chose Daddy Bear so had to make the chair very big and strong.” "The two Queens were very important, and I liked learning about the Tussie Mussie."

"Learning how to saw (safely) in D&T with Mrs Mallin was soooo fun!!”

In PE we have enjoyed building on our attacking, defending and shooting skills and continuing to develop our gymnastics sequences. We’ve explored Christianity in RE and enjoyed learning about the stories of Matthew and Jesus & the 10 Lepers, which helped us to understand empathy better.

The best bit through…learning our lines, songs and acting for the EYFS/KS1 Christmas Production – ‘The Bossy King’. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did?

Mr Bass

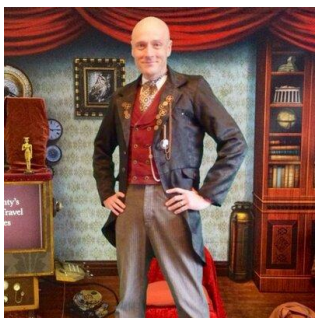
YEAR 3

What a busy and exciting half term it has been! Firstly, Year 3 have shown real focus and determination when creating a sandwich bag for Paddington. We learnt how to join material together using a blanket stitch which was tricky to begin with. We kept on trying and we felt so proud of ourselves in the end, the results are fantastic!

Next, we have deepened our learning all about Ancient Egypt and were visited by the hilarious Professor McGinty, a time travelling historian. We handled real Ancient Egyptian artefacts, some over 3000 years old including an extremely old piece of bread! We learned some Egyptian dance moves and even had a mummy-wrapping competition! One of our favourite lessons was learning all about Howard Carter and his discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun. We were totally absorbed with this and were in awe at the many treasures he discovered.

In maths, we have been so impressed with the children's resilience and ability to make links with compact methods in addition and subtraction. In English, we focused on our non-fiction writing reports recounts, diaries, postcards and instructions for making an origami panda. We have now finished reading 'A Bear Called Paddington' which we loved! We have looked for patterns in the Paddington stories, working out similarities and differences in the plot. We noticed that Paddington always has some sort of misunderstanding and then everything goes wrong!

Mrs Jones and Mrs Chamberlain



YEAR 4

The Year 4 children have been working hard, showing great curiosity in all areas of learning this half term. In Maths, they have been applying their addition and subtraction skills to problem solving and continuing to strengthen their times tables knowledge. After Christmas there will be a focus on multiplication to help every child feel confident and promote quick recall so that they are well prepared for the Year 4 multiplication-check. Information about how parents can support their child will be provided in our Spring INSPIRE Workshop.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed being immersed in our Roman topic this half term. The Roman myths that they have written in English show they are developing rich vocabulary and learning how to extend sentences using fronted adverbials to make their storytelling more vivid and engaging. Linked to their reading text, '*Escape from Pompeii*', the children worked hard on their retrieval and prediction skills to understand how the devastating eruption of Mount Vesuvius affected the people of Pompeii. This showed real empathy and understanding of the terrible situation in which the people must have found themselves. The class thoroughly enjoyed the workshop with Professor McGinty, who travelled back in his time machine to life in Ancient Rome. The children loved looking at the different artefacts and dressing up as a Roman for the day.

In Jigsaw this half term, the focus has been Celebrating Difference, and the children have reflected on why they might make judgements about people based on appearance and how this can often be incorrect. They have discussed what influences people to make these judgements and what can be done to change perceptions. We were very impressed with the maturity and thoughtfulness of the children in these sessions. Well done, Year 4.

The children have truly embraced the festive spirit, working hard to learn their song words, perfecting harmonies and rehearsing with instrumental accompaniment for the KS2 Christmas Performance. We are so proud of them all!

Mrs Kermode and Mrs Bradburn

YEAR 5

In Year 5 this half term, the children have been working with Mrs Mallin to taste, design and make their own Christmas biscuits. First of all, they researched a famous cook/cake maker, then they tasted and examined the ingredients in shop bought biscuits and analysed the flavour, texture and appearance. All children worked hard on creating an attractive biscuit design and we were so impressed with the maturity of the children when it came to making their biscuits in their groups and the sensible manner in which they went about it. Well done to all of the children for producing a fabulous end product, which was decorated beautifully.

In ICT, we have been developing our coding skills to control characters in games with variables and real life simulations such as traffic lights. We have just started to look at databases as a way of organising our data.

On Tuesday 18th November, Year 5 had a wonderful visit from Professor McGinty, a time travelling professor, who transported us back to Ancient Greece. The children learnt about Greek life and handled artefacts that showed them how the Greeks had lived, including pottery, money and tablets of wax for writing on. They also wrote their name in Greek, using the Greek alphabet and had a food tasting session where they tried hummus, olives, pitta bread, feta cheese and Greek yogurt with honey. A veritable banquet! They ended the day with an Olympic Games event where all children competed for the honour of becoming Greek champions in their city states. Well done to all of Year 5 who were polite and well-mannered and never stopped laughing throughout the whole day.

Mrs Bailey

YEAR 6

Year 6 have been very busy this half term and have really enjoyed learning all about WWII. To bring the topic to life, we were lucky enough to have the opportunity to visit Coventry Cathedral for a 'Blitz Experience'. The children's behaviour was exemplary. It was an absolute pleasure to take them; we had such a wonderful day.

In English, we are now sadly coming to the end of reading 'Goodnight Mr Tom'. Although the text was very sad in parts, the children have experienced life during WWII through a little boy's eyes which enabled them to understand more about: war, evacuation, friendship and relationships during an incredibly difficult period in history.

In our Music lessons, Year 6 have also learnt a range of songs from WWI and WWII, performing songs such as, 'Pack Up Your Troubles' with pride, energy and sensitivity. The children's version of 'The White Cliffs of Dover' was beautiful and it successfully captured the meaning of the song, which they learnt from the artist, Vera Lynn.

In Design and Technology, the children have been thoroughly enjoying the process of designing, making and programming their own Ferris wheels (for Lego men) to turn in both directions and at different speeds. I have been very impressed with the children's creativity and resilience.

As you know, Year 6 have also been working hard practicing for their KS2 Christmas Performance. I have been so impressed with their attitude and enthusiasm. Watching them perform their interpretation to 'Silent Night' so elegantly and sing so beautifully has filled me with pride.

I wish all of the children and their families a wonderful Christmas and I look forward to starting our new unit in January –'India'.

Miss Timothy

MUSIC – Mrs Kermode

What a very busy musical half term it's been in school. There are so many highlights:

Year 5 have been continuing 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 work with the children on a number of different songs. She and Mrs Bailey were very pleased with the enthusiasm of all children and their willingness to learn the music. We look forward in the coming 4 months to seeing how Year 5 are progressing in the run up to their concert in May 2026.

Year 4's ukulele sessions as part of 'Wider Opportunities' taught by Solihull Music Service are going brilliantly. 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, rest position and the chords C, F and A minor. 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 and spot rhythm patterns. Learning the piece 'Chasing Cars' by Snow Patrol has been a particular favourite! Congratulations Year 4 on a successful half term.

Key Stage 1 Choir on a Thursday Lunchtime has been a big success this half term. The children have been learning to work together as a group, how to stand sensibly, what it means to have a good posture when singing and how to project their voices clearly. We were so proud of their performance of 'Yellow Submarine' and 'Jingle Bells' at Fentham Hall where they performed in front of an audience of parents and other children. Very well done, Key Stage 1 singers. You overcame some nerves to give a memorable performance! We hope that you would like to continue next term – there is a fantastic performance opportunity coming up at the end of March 2026!

The **George Fentham Rock Band** has continued after school on a Thursday with Mr Jones and Mrs Kermode. Our fantastic group of guitarists, keyboard players, drummers and a vocalist put together a programme of music (including 'Livin on a Prayer' by Jon Bon Jovi and 'Seven Nation Army' by The White Stripes) which culminated in an electrifying performance at a Rock and Pop Night organised by Solihull Music at Fentham Hall. Wow!

We were so proud of all the children and had so many positive comments and lots of encouraging feedback. Very well done to each and every one of you! The group has worked together brilliantly, learning to be patient in rehearsals and to listen to others - we can't wait to see what happens next. There is to be an exciting performance opportunity next term, so keep up the wonderful work.

Instrumental lessons have been continuing this half term with children learning a variety of instruments such as keyboard, guitar, drums, singing and strings. **We are very keen to encourage more children to take up an instrument at the start of the new year, so if you are 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 – Mrs Bradburn

Well done to all of the children that have enjoyed being active in our lunchtime and afterschool clubs. The coaches have been really impressed with your skills and your stamina. New clubs will be starting in the Spring Term on week commencing 12th January and running until the week commencing 23rd March 2026. Details of the new Spring offering were sent out separately via Parent Pay and parents were notified if their child had received a place on 17th December. If your child is interested in any of the following clubs, please contact the office directly in the new year to see if there are any remaining places available:

- **Archery - KS2 Tuesday lunchtime**
- **Hockey - KS2 Tuesday after school**
- **Girls' football - KS2 Wednesday lunchtime**
- **Boys' football - KS2 Wednesday after school**
- **Multisport - Year 1 Friday lunchtime**
- **Netball - KS2 Friday after school**

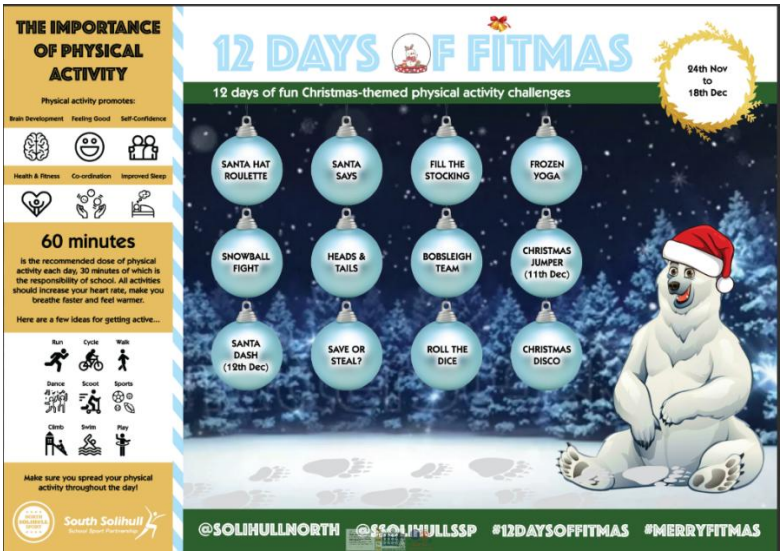
Please note Year 1 children do not need to sign up as all children are offered a place on a rotational basis.

<u>Football</u>

The season so far has been full of energy, determination, and progress. Whilst we haven't won a match yet, the girls show huge improvement — sharper passing, stronger defending, and better teamwork every week.
Their enthusiasm never fades, and their support for each other has been outstanding. The results will come, but the passion, friendship, and love for the game are already a big win.
We have just three more games left; St Patrick's on Monday 12th January 2026, St Andrew's and Our lady of Compassion on Tuesday 20th January 2026.

The Boys' football season commences on Tuesday 20th January 2026. Squad letters will be sent home in due course.

The 12 days of Fitmas



During December the whole school have been taking part in the 12 Days of 'Fitmas'. The highlight of which is always the Santa Dash which took place on Wednesday 17th December. Certificates will be awarded to classes that completed the challenge in our Celebration Assembly.

ONLINE SAFETY COMMITTEE, SCHOOL COUNCIL AND ECO GROUP

ONLINE SAFETY

In our first meetings, we have had some great discussions about what the role is (raising the profile of Online Safety for pupils and parents), how we want to do this and have set our initial objectives for this year. All representatives now have a badge, helping identify them around school, they have talked to their classmates about what our focus will be and asked them for ideas of what they would like to know/do. We will be sharing our first activity with you straight after Christmas.

Mr Bass

SCHOOL COUNCIL

What a fantastic start to the year! Once we created a charter for our school council, we started to think about how we can make playtimes more fun in George Fentham. In our second meeting of this term, the Council were tasked with auditing what toys and games they already have for wet play. Next, they asked their class what new games they would like at playtimes.

Secondly, School Council discussed which sports equipment we could add on the playground and what new games the children throughout the school would like to play. The children showed very mature attitudes to being 'Ready, Respectful and Safe' whilst at play. The councillors will now feedback their results to the PTFA and Mrs Gaughan so watch this space!

Mrs Jones

ECO GROUP

This half term in Eco Council we have promoted 'Switch-Off Fortnight' in an assembly.

As part of this, we launched a competition where we asked the children to design a poster which showed how we could help the environment by switching off appliances and lights in order to save energy.

We had many entries from Year 1 to Year 5 which were of a high standard. In our meeting, we judged them and voted on the ones that really impressed us. We are going to put these messages up around school to remind everyone about the importance of saving energy.

The winners were:

- Year 1 - Dilys
- Year 2 – Reya
- Year 3 – Emmy
- Year 4 - Olivia
- Year 5 – Eliza

Well done to all of our winners and to everyone who took part!

Mrs Bailey

CHRISTMAS HAT COMPETITION

On Thursday 4th December we held our annual Christmas Lunch in school. The tables looked lovely and were all decorated and set out for Christmas lunch. The children were invited to wear a homemade Christmas hat which was judged and small prizes awarded to the best ones.

Here are the winners:

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
Beatrix	Lochlyn	Werner	William B
Orlagh	Jacob	Florie	Ted
Ruby	Sunday	Sophie	Story

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Sophie	Olha	Lilly-May	Auri
Ben	Sonny	Fiyin	Eleanor

A special award was made to Sam in Y6 for his Christmas hats over the years and for always taking part!

PTFA

Thank you to the PTFA who continue to support us. They have had a busy half term organising events such as the Bonfire Bingo back in November and the school discos in December. The PTFA also ran a stall at the Hampton-in-Arden Christmas Fair. Thank you to all the parents and carers that sent in sweets/chocolates/tombola prizes to help support these events on non-uniform days.
Money raised has been used to fund our beautiful Christmas tree and to provide selection boxes for every child, which will be given out on the last afternoon by a very special visitor!!

AND FINALLY….

As we come to the end of this term, I would like to thank our amazing children for their enthusiasm and positive attitudes, our dedicated staff for their hard work and care, and our families for their continued support.

Our Christmas Performances were a real highlight, with beautiful singing that filled us all with festive cheer. I would like to thank our families for their very generous donations, at each of the performances, raising a total of **£410.20**. This money will be spent on resources which will really benefit our children next term.

We also enjoyed our Christmas lunch, with the children proudly wearing their festive hats and jumpers, and our visit to church, where we took time to reflect on the Nativity story with Rev. Stuart. There is great anticipation and excitement in school this afternoon as we are all hoping for a visit from Santa before we leave for our Christmas break. This is one of our well-established traditions and a lovely way to end the term!

On behalf of everyone at George Fentham Endowed School,
I wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mrs J Gaughan
Headteacher
George Fentham Endowed School