GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2 2024

December 2024

Term Dates

SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	2024/2025
Spring Term	Monday 6th January 2025 – Friday 11th April 2025
Half Term	Monday 17th February 2025 – Friday 21st February 2025
Summer Term	Monday 28th April 2025 – Monday 21st July 2025
Half Term	Monday 26th May 2025 –Friday 30th May 2025
5 INSET DAYS 2024/25	Inset Day 1: Monday 2nd September 2024 Inset Day 2: Friday 25th October 2024 Inset Day 3: Monday 24th February 2025 Inset Day 4: Friday 23rd May 2025 Inset Day 5: Monday 21st July 2025

Dates for Diary 2024/25

Monday 15th January 2025	Closing date for Reception Applications 2025
Friday 31st January 2025	Offer date for Nursery
Tuesday 4th February 2025	National Childhood Measurement Programme (Reception and Year 6)
Wednesday 7th May 2025	Class Photographs
Monday 13th January 2025	GF Girls vs St James 4.30pm (Solihull Prep School)
Wednesday 15th January	Yr3 & Yr4 Speed stacking competition 4pm-5.30pm
Thursday 16th January 2025	GF Boys vs St Patricks 4pm (Solihull Moors)
	GF Boys vs Lady Katherine Leveson 4.30pm (Solihull Moors)
Tuesday 4th February 2025	GF Boys vs St Margaret's (Old Sils) 4pm
	GF Boys vs Our Lady of Compassion 4.30pm (Old Sils)

IMPORTANT Admission Dates

- Application closing date for children to start Reception at George Fentham Endowed School in September 2025 is 15th January 2025. Offer day is 16th April 2025. Applications are dealt with by Solihull Admissions.
- Application closing date for children starting Nursery at George Fentham Endowed School in September 2025 was 2nd December 2024. Please note late applications can still be sent into the school office. Offer day is 31st January 2025. Applications are dealt with by George Fentham Endowed School Governors. Please see the admissions pages on our school website for more information.
- Application closing date for Secondary Schools for current Year 6 children was 31st October 2024. Offer day is 3rd March 2025. Applications are dealt with by Solihull Admissions.

Staffing Updates

Year 4:

Mrs Briggs - This week we are saying goodbye to Mrs Briggs who has made the difficult decision to retire, due to personal reasons. Mrs Briggs has worked at George Fentham Endowed School for 7 years and was our Science Subject Leader. Mrs Briggs has also been responsible for Eco-Group and has been instrumental in achieving a number of awards for our school.

We are delighted to say the Mrs Briggs will continue working with Eco-Group for the remainder of the year and may even come back to teach for the odd day or two. We wish Mrs Briggs a very happy retirement.

Mrs Griffiths - We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Griffiths at the end of this term. Mrs Griffiths has really enjoyed working with our Year 4 class and we would like to wish her well in the future.

Next term we are welcoming **Mrs Guerin**, an experienced Key Stage 2 teacher, who will be working in Year 4 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Mrs Guerin has already spent time in school, meeting the children and working with Mrs Briggs to ensure a smooth and successful handover.

We are also delighted to confirm that our very own **Mrs Mallin** will join Mrs Guerin in Year 4 to teach the children on Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Mallin is looking forwards to returning to Year 4, where she has taught before.

Lunchtime Supervisors:

A huge thank you to Mrs Naz and Mrs Shabir who will be leaving George Fentham at Christmas. We would like to thank them for their hard work over lunchtimes supporting the children inside and outside.

From January we look forward to welcoming 3 new Lunchtime Supervisors to our team.

Class Events

Nursery:

This half-term we have been learning about Celebrations. We have learnt about bonfire night and created some wonderful, sparkling firework pictures. The children enjoyed learning about Diwali, which is the Hindu festival of light, and the Carnival celebrations that happen in Rio De Janeiro. We had a wonderful birthday celebration for our class bears, this was all planned for by the Nursery and Reception children. They made party hats, cards, invitations and on party day they enjoyed tasting food from different cultures.

One of our biggest achievement this half-term was our Christmas Performance. We are so proud of the Nursery children who worked so hard to learn the words to lots of songs and perform to you all. They really were amazing!

Our new learning theme will be 'Kings, Queens and Castles', please have a look at our school website for more information.

Have a wonderful Christmas!

Mrs Bromhall & Mrs Porter

Reception:

Our new theme 'Let's Celebrate' has allowed us to explore celebrations we are familiar with and learn about new ones that happen around the world. We started off with Diwali, the festival of light. We made our own Diya lamp and learnt about how the festival is celebrated.

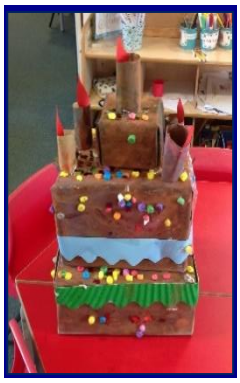
Then we looked at Bonfire Night, we noticed links with Diwali because of all the lights and fireworks. The children found out who Guy Fawkes was and the meaning behind Bonfire Night celebrations.

We learnt about the symbol of the Poppy and Remembrance day. We celebrated 'Carnaval' in Rio De Janiero and had our own party. We designed and made a mask to wear to the party.

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

Our theme finished with Christmas. Reverend Stewart came to tell us the Christmas Story. We have read lots of stories, old and new, made a card and calendar for our family. We took part in the KS1/EYFS performance and dressed up as camels, what an achievement!

It has been an extremely busy half term and we are all ready for a holiday and to spend time with our families.



Merry Christmas Reception!

Mrs Brown and Mrs Flint

Year 1:

We have had a brilliant half term in Year 1, the highlight being our fantastic EYFS/KS1 Nativity 'Born in a Barn'. We were so proud to see how enthusiastic and confident all the children were. They sang beautifully and remembered their positions and parts with ease!

This half term, the children have been really absorbed in all of their learning, from exploring the life of William Shakespeare in History, to investigating the properties of materials in Science. In English, we have been focusing on instructions and recounts. We have read 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth' and 'Mog's Christmas Calamity'. We loved learning about what Mog got up to and how things went wrong when she was around! We also learnt a powerful message of love and support. When things might go wrong, there are people around us who will help and care for us. Year 1 are kind and caring just like the neighbours in 'Mog's Christmas Calamity'.

We have also been very creative. We made finger puppet mammoths linked to our English work and we also really enjoyed getting into the festive spirit, making our very own Christingles.

We have also had a very special visitor since the 1st December, Jingles the Elf, who has been up to all sorts of mischief. Luckily, Year 1 have been setting a super example to him with their superb behaviour!

Mrs Barratt, Mrs Salmon, Mrs Jones and Mrs John would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you so much for your continued support and kindness.

We look forward to welcoming the children back for another exciting term in the Spring, where we will be learning all about 'Amazing Africa'.

Mrs Salmon and Mrs Barratt

Year 2:

This half term has been just as A-MA-ZING as the first half! We've continued our learning journey, laughed lots and really begun to work independently!

Some of our highlights have included:

- "Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria were amazing women who did so much to make the country better."
- "I loved learning how to saw (safely) in D&T with Mrs Mallin. It was brilliant."
- "It was fun designing and making our own chair for a traditional tale character."
- "I did Little Red Riding Hood, so my chair was obviously 'red' and very small!"

In PE we have enjoyed building on our attacking, defending and shooting skills and continuing to develop our gymnastics sequences. We've explored the story of Rama and Sita, to help us better understand the Hindu festival of Diwali and the best bit…learning our lines, songs and acting for the Christmas Production – 'Born in a Barn'. We hope you enjoyed it.

Mr Bass and Mrs Cuff

Year 3:

Year 3 have continued to go from strength to strength this term. We have deepened our learning all about Ancient Egypt and were visited by 'Mr Egypt', a real-life Egyptologist. We handled real Ancient Egyptian artefacts, some over 3000 years old including an extremely rare coin from Alexander the Great – only seven exist! We learned some Egyptian dance moves and even had a mummy-wrapping competition! Year 3 have learned so much in this unit and really used our historical skills to understand the rise and fall of past civilisations.

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. 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! Next, we planned and wrote our own Paddington Christmas stories where Paddington gets himself in a muddle with some hilarious consequences! Finally, in Design Technology we created a bag for Paddington to store his marmalade sandwiches!

Mrs Jones and Mrs Chamberlain

Year 4:
The Year 4 children have had an incredibly action-packed half-term! During the second half of the Autumn term, we fully immersed ourselves in exploring life in the Roman era. In History, we delved into the fascinating world of Roman Britain, whilst in Art, we designed and created beautiful Roman mosaics. In English, we read and analysed various Roman myths, which inspired us to produce some outstanding writing. We have been extremely fortunate to have borrowed some genuine Roman artefacts from the Birmingham Museum, these have really inspired our curiosity into life in the past.
Towards the end of our history unit, the children experienced a whole day of Roman culture where they took part in lots of Roman inspired activities. The children were able to cook and eat like Romans, making Roman flat bread, they used clay to make their own beads and even dressed for the day like Romans. They had lots of fun whilst consolidating their previous learning and hopefully making lots of great memories that they will cherish for a very long time.

Our ukulele lessons are also going extremely well. This half term, the children have begun to learn how to read ukulele music, play a variety of chords and have even learnt to play along to some songs. They are working extremely hard in order to be able to hopefully put on a spectacular concert at the end of the year.

As the Autumn term comes to a close, it is with much sadness that myself and Mrs Griffiths will leave the children, although we know that they will be taught in the very capable hands of their new teachers, Mrs Guerin and Mrs Mallin. We wish the children a very happy Christmas and hope they have a lovely well-earned break.

Mrs Briggs and Mrs Griffiths

Year 5:

In Year 5 this half term, the children have been tasting, designing and making their own Christmas biscuits. We tasted and examined the ingredients in shop bought biscuits, thinking about why the ingredients that manufacturers use is sometimes different, with companies perhaps adding in extra colouring or flavouring to make their biscuit's appearance better or the taste more enhanced for the consumer. All children worked hard on creating an attractive biscuit design, thinking also about appearance, texture, flavour and size. They then drew a detailed design of their biscuit before adapting a basic biscuit recipe and writing out their own recipe instructions for making it. We were so impressed with the maturity of the children when it came to making their biscuits 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. Reports were that they tasted yummy!

In ICT we have been developing our coding skills to design 2D games and real life simulations such as traffic lights. We also used 2Design and Make to design the packaging for our biscuits.

We went to the Leamington and Warwick Gurdwara on the 28th November. The children were captivated by the sheer size of the temple and the warm welcome that wait within. They listened with great respect as we were shown the prayer hall and the bedroom of Guru Granth Sahib (the Holy book). Our host, Mr Singh, was impressed by their fantastic questions and concentration. We ended our visit in the Langar Hall, where we were treated to a taste of the vegetarian food that the temple serves every day. Delicious!

On Thursday 12th December Year 5 had a wonderful visit from Dom, at 'Portals to the Past', who ran a fabulous workshop about Ancient Greece. In the morning, the children learnt about the origins of the Greek Gods and demonstrated their acting skills when they took on various roles. This was followed by a Greek quiz where the children had to find the information to the questions themselves on different themed boards. They then followed this with a game of Petteia (a Greek strategy game). The afternoon consisted of solving the Archimedes Stomachion (a Greek puzzle for exercising the mind), a re-telling of a Greek Myth, a demonstration of Ancient Greek weapons and armour, followed by a Mini-Olympic Games. Well done to all of Year 5 who were engaged at all times, polite and courteous, but also demonstrated a brilliant sense of humour!

Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Kermode

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 visited Coventry Cathedral for a Blitz Experience. We had such a wonderful day. Over to the children…

- "It was really interesting to stand in both the old and the new cathedral. Many of the arches still remain in the old cathedral but the ceiling was completely burnt down."
- "Fire watchers were on the roof of the cathedral for hours looking out for bombs landing and small fires igniting. It must have been so scary."
- "It made me realise just how much destruction there was. 500 tonnes of incendiary bombs were dropped in those 11 hours non-stop. 554 people lost their lives that night."
- "The cathedral tower survived due to its shape. The bombs bounced off it due to its shape before causing any damage."

Year 6 have also learnt a range of songs from WWI and WWII, performing them with pride and sensitivity. Their version of 'The White Cliffs of Dover' was beautiful – they even harmonised. I have been very impressed with the mature attitude they have demonstrated throughout both our WWI and WWII topics.

We have now come to the end of reading Goodnight Mr Tom and are looking forward to watching the film. 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.

In Design and Technology, the children have been designing, making and coding 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 perseverance: when the Lego men fell out of their seats, the children were able to quickly put together a 'Plan B' and when a younger child was not able to place a Lego man in their seat in time, the children were able to input new data to increase the time the Ferris wheel was stationary for. They are very talented!

As a Christmas treat, Year 6 also visited The Hippodrome in Birmingham, with members of the Hampton Lunch Club, to watch The Royal Ballet perform The Nutcracker. We had a wonderful time and the children had a detailed discussion on their return to school about the moral of the story – never judge a book by its cover and not to cast judgement over those you do not even know. The children's behaviour was exemplary. It was an absolute pleasure to take them and I am very proud of them all. Thank you to The Fentham Trust for funding this event.

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

Miss Timothy

EYFS/Key Stage 1 Christmas Play - 'Born in a Barn'

We have had great pleasure in learning the songs and lines, plus rehearsing for our EYFS and KS1 Christmas Production. It truly was a fully inclusive show and huge congratulations to all of our children and staff for their hard work and enthusiasm in presenting 'Born in a Barn', which was FAB-U-LOUS and enjoyed by all!

Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert

This week, Key Stage 2 have performed their Christmas extravaganza at the Church of St Mary and St Bartholomew in Hampton-in-Arden. The theme for the performance was 'Christmas Traditions' – Christmas cards, Christingles, Christmas trees and The Twelve Days of Christmas. Each class looked at the history behind why the traditions are a part of Christmas, sang Christmas carols and songs and retold the Christmas story. The children were amazing for both performances and the audience really enjoyed the beautiful singing and learning new facts about Christmas.

Thank You!

A huge thank you to everyone for following our ticketing procedures, coming to only those performances for which they had tickets and ensuring childcare arrangements were in place for younger children. Further to this, through your very kind and generous donations we have raised the wonderful sum of £268.17 to support purchasing additional classroom resources.

Music – Mrs Kermode

We have had a very busy musical half term since October! We have discovered more composers and musicians in our music assemblies, such as George Frideric Handel and Ladysmith Black Mambazo. The children have had fun looking at the knowledge organisers in order to learn more in their spare time at home, listening to other recommendations of that composer's work and completing the quizzes to show how much they have learnt. Well done to all of the children who have won prizes or who have taken music activities home this half term!

Year 3 have continued their series of workshops in preparation for their participation in 'Solihull Sings' at Solihull School in May 2025. Miss Sainsbury from Solihull Prep School has been in to teach the children a number of different songs and all teachers present were so pleased with the engagement and enthusiasm of the children. Their singing stamina has greatly improved and they are continuing to learn the different songs confidently. Well done Year 3.

Year 4 have continued their ukulele sessions as part of the Whole School Ensemble Teaching scheme, taught by Solihull Music. Now able to hold their instruments confidently and understand about the different strings, the children are making good progress. Congratulations Year 4 on a successful half term - your teachers are hugely impressed with your focus during lessons. Keep it up!

Year 5 are learning their music for Young Voices at Resorts World Arena in February 2025. There is a wide range of musical material of different styles and a lot to learn, so keep practising over the Christmas holiday, Year 5. Thank you to all parents and carers who have helped with signing up their children so swiftly to the Music Room or Spotify so that they can learn the songs at home too. Keep up the good work, Year 5.

Junior Choir has continued at pace this half term and Mrs Kermode has been so proud of the way in which the children have approached the volume of Christmas songs they have had to learn. Their weekly focus and stamina continues to get better and the children are now sounding fabulous as a group together! The culmination of this term has been singing at the Touchwood Carol Competition and our end of term Church service, where the children performed confidently to a large audience of family and friends. Well done on being fabulous representatives of our school - it was a pleasure to work with you this term.

If you would like to vote for our school to win the Touchwood Carol Competition, please click here: https://www.eventsattouchwood.co.uk/christmaschoir

Voting opens on the 19th December and closes at midnight 30th December 2024. Thank you.

Junior Choir will continue the second week back after Christmas on a Thursday after school (3:30pm -4:15pm) so please do let Mrs Kermode know if you would like your child to participate.

Finally, instrumental lessons have been continuing weekly and the children are enjoying their sessions with the Solihull Music staff. Please encourage your children to sign up to perform in assembly after Christmas (whether they have lessons in school or not) so that we can continue to enjoy their progress!

We would love to encourage even more children to take up an instrument, so **if your child is a budding musician and would like to learn an instrument, please sign up using the Solihull Music information which came 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. Solihull Music can be contacted on: solihullmusic@solihull.gov.uk or 0121 704 6500.

PE and Sports – Mrs Bradburn

Spring Sports Clubs:

Our spring sports clubs opened for registration on **Wednesday 14th December 2024**. Please click the link for the appropriate club. The information given will be shared with the appropriate coach

to ensure we are able to keep your child safe. Your child may join more than one club. With the exception of Jet Dance which is provided by an external company, school clubs run for 10 week blocks. The first sessions will be the week beginning **Monday 13th January 2024**. The last sessions will be the week beginning **Monday 31st March 2025.**

If you have provided the required information & consent, please assume your child has a place in the club.

We will contact you only if your child has NOT been allocated a place.

KS2 Football – https://forms.office.com/e/9QUP47pQyi
Year 3 & 4 Dodgeball club – https://forms.office.com/e/0tGEsKpPDN
Year 5 & 6 Dodgeball club – https://forms.office.com/e/AKQaLhBzBj

Registration closes on Friday 10th January 2025 at 11am. After this time please contact the office to see if any spaces are available.
For lunch time clubs no registration is required, we will ask the children to sign up when they return to school in January. If your child wishes to attend, please ensure they bring trainers into school on the day of the club.

Spring 2025	Lunch time	Afterschool
Monday		Jet Dance 3.20 -4.30pm Open access via Jet Dance This club is run by an external provider.
Tuesday	Year 2, 3 & 4 Girls Football open access (18) Adaptive Sports 12.40 -1.15 No registration required.	
Wednesday	Year 1 & 2 Children's Choice TBC Open access (18) Adaptive sports 12.20 -1pm No registration required.	KS2 Football Open access (32) Adaptive sports 3.25pm - 4.25pm Priority booking will go to those children who attended in the Autumn Term.
Thursday		Year 3 & 4 Dodgeball Open access (24) Adaptive Sports 3.25pm - 4.25pm
Friday	Year 5 & 6 Netball Skills Open access (16) Adaptive sports 12.40 - 1.15pm No registration required.	Year 5 & 6 Dodgeball Open access (24) 3.25pm - 4.25pm Adaptive Sports

At George Fentham, we are proud to invest a significant amount of money from the school budget to fund the Tuesday to Friday clubs so that all children have equal access to these sporting opportunities. In return, we expect a high level of commitment to the club and have high expectations for pupils' behaviour during the sessions.

Girls' Football:
The George Fentham Team have been busy with league fixtures. It has been wonderful seeing them grow and develop throughout the season. They can be really proud of their team work, resilience and the way they have smiled and laughed through the cold, wet nights. Everyone has played well from the safe hands of Esme the Goal keeper to Hermione's boundless energy. Be brave girls. One more game to go – let's win it!

- Thursday 7th November: George Fentham 0 vs Cheswick Green 2
- Monday 11th November: George Fentham 0 vs St Margaret's 0
    - George Fentham 0 vs Berkswell 1
- Tuesday 26th November: George Fentham 1 vs St Augustine's 0
    - George Fentham 2 vs St Patrick's 0
- Thursday 5th December: George Fentham 1 vs St George & St Teresa 4
- Tuesday 10th December: George Fentham 3 vs Our Lady of Compassion 0

Boys' Football:
The boys' season is only just beginning but what a great start! They showed good skills and worked well as a team creating space and opportunities. I was particularly impressed with the way they encouraged each other and kept the communication going, as well as showing good respect for the opposition. We are looking forward to the rest of the season with high hopes.

- Tuesday 10th December: George Fentham 6 vs Meriden 0

Eco-Council – Mrs Briggs

What a fantastic Autumn term for our Eco-Councillors. We started off the term by celebrating 'World Food Day', ticking off a global initiative that will count towards our next year's award application. Councillors have also been conducting an audit of classroom practice throughout the term to see where everyone can be better at recycling, reducing or reusing in their classrooms (teachers included!). This last half-term, the Eco Team decided to celebrate 'National Tree Week' where they undertook a series of activities, such as running a whole school assembly, encouraging their peers to 'tree spot' when out walking and culminating in organising an Eco competition. They are performing their roles well and hopefully inspiring their friends too.

Our Christmas competition winners are: Eliza (R), Ben (Y2), Lilly-May (Y4), Morayo (Y6) and runners up: Leo (Y1), Daisy (Y3) and Auri (Y5).

Early in November, last year's Eco Councillors from Years 5 and 6 were invited to the Eco Awards Ceremony held at the Civic Suite in Solihull. Here we met with children from other schools that also performed this vital role. We were given our Level 3 Eco Award whilst someone from a local business spoke about all the initiatives that we had worked on. We were super proud and we even got to meet the Mayor! We had a brilliant time and it was lovely to have all of our hard work recognised.

School Council – Mrs Bailey

In our second meeting of this term, the Council had a special guest attend – Mrs Bradburn.
In the Summer Term, the old School Council had worked with both Mrs Bradburn and myself to look at playground usage – likes and dislikes! The children were tasked with analysing the results. They have now devised a questionnaire that they are taking back to their classes to find out which sports the children would like to play on the playground and how they think they can be 'Ready, Respectful and Safe' whilst at play. The councillors will feedback their results at the next meeting.

E-Safety – Mr Bass

We have been busy sorting out our Online Safety Competition, which will come out next week and be judged in the New Year, as well as beginning preparations for Safer Internet Day in February, when we will be sharing some new resources to support Parents. We hope that the information regarding mobile phones, sent out earlier this term, has been useful. Please go to the Online Safety page on the school website for more information.

PTFA

The PTFA would like to thank all parents/carers, volunteers and staff for their continued support. Since September we have had 3 very successful events being the school disco and Bonfire Bingo, along with our Christmas card project. This has given the PTFA a good start to its next fundraising target to provide another class with a set of tablet computers. We have also been able to pay for the school Christmas tree and provide Christmas chocolate selection boxes for all the children. We have lots of exciting plans for the New Year and would welcome any volunteers if they would be willing to take on a mini fundraising project within the PTFA. These mini projects would be less time-consuming than an official committee member role but still very

important to the PTFA. The PTFA will be organising a Committee Meeting in the New Year and will advertise the date in January. Have a lovely Christmas.

Poppy Appeal

This year's Poppy appeal raised a grand total of £273.38. The children really enjoyed choosing which poppy merchandise they wanted, in return for a small donation.

Children in Need

Friday 15th November was Children in Need Day and children were invited to come in non-school uniform in return for a small donation. We are delighted to say that £238.00 was raised.

Christmas Lunch, Jumpers and Hats!

On Thursday 5th December we held our annual Christmas Lunch in school. This was a lovely social event and all the tables in the dinner hall were laid out for Christmas Lunch. The children were invited to make their own Christmas hat with small prizes awarded for the best homemade hats.

The winners for the Christmas Hat competition are as follows:

Reception
Suri and Leo A

Year 1
Reya and Leo C

Year 2
Robyn and Walter

Year 3
Logan V and Ezra

Year 4
Jacob and Rosa

Year 5
Kira and Sam

Year 6
Morayo and Sebastian

Children were also invited to come in Christmas Jumpers and to make a small voluntary donation to go towards Birmingham Childrens Hospital 'Jolly Jumper Appeal'. We raised £112.00, thank you for your support.

Collection for Age concern

Earlier this term we were contacted by Solihull Age Concern UK who were collecting gifts of chocolates, biscuits and selection boxes. These gifts were going to be given to their 'Linking People Together' clients, who live alone with no family or other support nearby, at their Christmas lunches in December. Volunteers were also delivering these gifts to older people who were on their own and unable to get out of the house to the lunches.
A group of our Year 4 pupils took on the ownership of this project. They worked together to collect the donations to hand over to the charity. In total, we handed over 2 large boxes of donations.

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to such a worthy cause,

Eva, Jacob, George M, Violet, Fiyinfoluwa, Lilley-May, Chloe and Mrs Bailey

IMPORTANT - Medicines in school

Our Medicines in School Policy 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.

School Attendance

At George Fentham Endowed 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.

Parent Pay

We kindly ask that when you receive Parent Pay emails you action them at your earliest convenience, as important updates and information are posted there. Staying up to date with the latest details will help ensure you're fully informed about school events, payments, and other essential matters. Thank you for your attention and continued support.
If you are having any problems or unsure of anything regarding Parent Pay, please speak to Miss Smith or Miss McCormack in the school office.

School Lunches

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to universal free school meals but you must still register. There are still children who have not registered. A parent Pay message was sent on Monday 16th December to those of you who still need to register. If you have not yet done this, please do so as soon as possible.
If you think your child, from Year 3 onwards, may be entitled to free school meals, please let us know. We can offer any help or support needed regarding this process.

Please can all parents ensure that they keep their child's Parent Pay account in credit and their child's Parent Pay account is cleared at the end of each term. Thank you for your help in this matter.
Please note, the cost of a school lunch is £2.90 per day.

Holidays in School Time

Headteachers 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.

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 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: 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.**

REMINDER: Car Parking and Voluntary One-Way System

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.

REMINDER: Collecting your child at the end of the day

At the end of the school day we are dismissing approximately 200 children onto the small playground. With limited space and well over 150 adults collecting, we would like to ask for your help to ensure everyone's safety. Once your child has been released to you by their class teacher, please keep your child with you and do not let them run around on the playground. It is very difficult, from a staff point of view, to check every child is with the correct adult if children are running between parents. In addition, there are more opportunities for children to bump or knock into each other as classes are being dismissed. Thank you for your support in this matter.

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.

Newsletter

COMING SOON

In the New Year we will be sending out a questionnaire to canvass views on the content and format of our newsletter. This will help us to determine what is working well and enable us to consider any changes that you would like to see. Thank you, in advance, for your support in this matter.

And Finally…….

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our children and staff for their hard work during an incredibly busy half term. We hope our Christmas celebrations and performances have added some Christmas magic and sparkle at this very special time of year!
On behalf of everyone at George Fentham Endowed School, I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 6th January 2025.

Mrs J Gaughan
Headteacher