GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER SUMMER 1 2025

May 2025

Newsletter Update

Thank you to everyone who completed our online questionnaire regarding our School Newsletters. As you are aware, we are looking to change the format and your feedback has been really interesting and helpful. We are currently working through all of your responses in order to develop our ideas further.

As this is such a short half term, we have focused on including dates for your diary, class updates and a couple of other items that we hope you will find interesting.

Term Dates

SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	2025
Summer Term 2024/25	Monday 28th April 2025 – Monday 21st July 2025
May Day	Monday 5th May 2025
Half Term	Monday 26th May 2025 – Friday 30th May 2025
5 INSET DAYS 2024/25 (2 remaining)	**Inset Day 4: Friday 23rd May 2025** **Inset Day 5: Monday 21st July 2025**

Dates for your Diary	2025
Monday 2nd June 2025	Yrs 4 & 5 Chance to Shine
Monday 2nd June 2025	Yr 6 Swimming
Tuesday 10th June 2025	West Midlands Police visiting Yr 6 relating to transition to Secondary School
Thursday 12th June 2025	Yr 4 Cricket Competition @ Berkswell Cricket Club
Tuesday 17th June 2025	Sports Day EYFS and KS1 straight after morning registration KS2 Straight after afternoon registration
Wednesday 18th June 2025	KS1 Disney Shooting Stars (Girls' football) 4-5.30pm @ Light Hall School
Thursday 19th June 2025	Yr 5 Cricket Competition @ Berkswell Cricket Club
Thursday 19th June 2025	EYFS 2025/26 Meeting for Parents 6pm
Monday 23rd June 2025	Yrs 5 & 6 Solihull Borough Athletics @ Tudor Grange
Wednesday 25th June 2025	PTFA Disco
Thursday 26th June 2025	Year 6 Leavers Service – Birmingham Cathedral
Monday 30th June – Friday 4th July 2025	Year 5 Bikeability 1.30-3.00pm
Wednesday 2nd July – Friday 4th July 2025	Year 6 Residential – Culmington Manor

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Wednesday 2nd July 2025	Year 4 Music Performance pm
Wednesday 9th July 2025	Reserve day for Sports Day
Thursday 10th July 2025	Year 6 Transition Day South Solihull
Friday 11th July 2025	School Reports issued
Monday 14th July 2025	Open Evening
Friday 18th July 2025	Year 6 Leavers' Service Hampton Church (Yrs 1-6)

Class Assemblies

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to our class assemblies. Please see the dates below of each class assembly. Further individual class details, such as times, will be sent out nearer the dates of each assembly.

Class	Date of Assembly
Year 1	Wednesday 25th June 2025
Year 2	Friday 6th June 2025
Year 3	Friday 20th June 2025
Year 4	Friday 4th July 20205
Year 5	Friday 13th June 2025
Year 6	Monday 14th July 2025
Year 6	Thursday 26th June Year 6 Leavers Service @ St Philips Cathedral Friday 18th July 2025 Year 6 Leavers Service at Church

Nursery and Reception Dates

Reception	Thursday 12th June 2025 Father's Day Event 9.15-10.15
Nursery	Thursday 12th June 2025 Father's Day Event 10.45-11.45

Please note if any changes are made to the dates published above we will let you know at the earliest opportunity.

Class Events

Nursery:

This half term we have been learning about different animals and their habitats. The children enjoyed the story 'Shark in the Park' and made their own telescopes to go on a shark hunt in our Nursery garden. We couldn't believe it when we saw a shark fin in the shed window……*or was it a shark fin??* The children have looked closely at the features of different animals and created some wonderful detailed paintings.

Our Jigsaw lessons have been about relationships and being a good friend. The children have been giving out kind tokens to their friends when they have been kind. We have learnt about the importance of working together and linked this to Rueben the Bee from our Building Learning Power. Every child has decorated a Bee for our class hive to represent how we are all unique but we all work together.

Animal Day was fantastic! Mo from Animals in Hands visited with his animal friends. All the children were so brave holding the animals. We learnt so much and it was a brilliant experience for all. Dinner in the hall was wonderful, the children met the lunchtime team and experienced going up to the 'hatch' to get a biscuit. Thank you so much for your support in making this day such a great experience by providing animal themed clothes for your child and their packed lunch.

Next half term our learning theme is 'Around the World'.

Mrs Bromhall & Mrs Porter

Reception:

This half term we have looked at animal habitats, diets, patterns and located where we can find wild animals around the world. We have painted animals and used collage to create our own tigers. We have watched tadpoles change too!

We have been to the computer suite where the children have learnt to log on the computers independently. They have persevered when using the mouse and remained patient when they have needed help from an adult.

We celebrated VE day by coming to school wearing red, white and blue. During the day the children had opportunities to make union flags, share their own knowledge of WWII and find out what life was like for children during the war.

The children have been preparing for sports day in PE. We have practised the egg and spoon race, hurdles and running. We are already feeling competitive!

Enjoy half-term, don't forget to keep reading!

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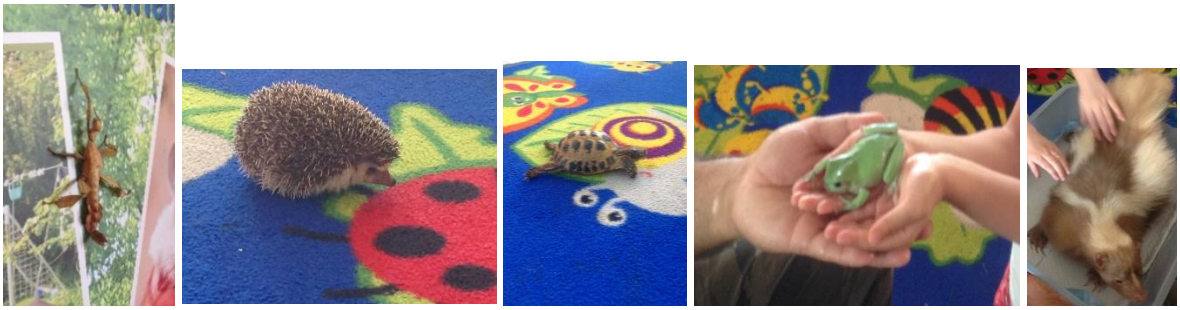
Our WOW! moment this half term was a visit from Animals in Hands. Mo the Ranger brought in a variety of animals for us to see, touch and hold. Mo told us lots about the animals and their habitats. We met a tarantula, frog, hedgehog, tortoise, stick insect, owl, skunk and a snake!



Mrs Brown and Mrs Flint

Year 1:

This half term has flown by and it's hard to believe the children are about to begin their final half term in Year 1! We've been incredibly busy and the children have been brilliant. They have been working hard across all subjects and producing some fantastic work.

In History, we've started our exciting new topic Toys from the Past. The children have really enjoyed learning about the different types of toys that children played with in the Victorian era. They had the opportunity to explore and play with a variety of replica Victorian toys, sparking lots of curiosity and thoughtful discussions. It's been wonderful to see them comparing these historical toys to their own modern-day favourites, noticing the differences in materials, designs, and how they are used.

In English, we've been diving into traditional tales such as 'Little Red Riding Hood' and 'The Gingerbread Man'. The children have been learning about story structure, character descriptions, and using exciting vocabulary in their writing. They've also had fun acting out the stories, which has helped them understand the characters and plot more deeply. For homework, Freddie even made some Gingerbread men and took some pictures of what he produced. Amazing!

In Science, we've been learning all about plants. The children have been identifying different parts of a plant and understanding what they need to grow. As you know, the children took home their sunflowers last half term. Jay-Charles has been sending in pictures of his plant and we can't believe how much it has grown. It is so wonderful to see the excitement and enthusiasm when children carry on their learning journey at home.

Mrs Salmon and Mrs Barratt

Year 2:

History

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

English

In our English lessons we have been enjoying 'The Lighthouse Keeper Stories' by Ronda and David Armitage. We've created our own delicious lunch for Mr Grinling, designed a seagull proof basket so they can't steal his lunch and written our own version of the story.

Presentations

The children all chose a topic that interested them and then prepared a short presentation, which they then gave to the class. Topics ranged from Penguins, Football, Ninjago, Golf, Horses, Cats, Skiing, Trains and much more! It was clear how hard the children had prepared, with notes and scripts, props and costumes all used to make their presentations more interesting. They used clear voices, with good expression and Mr Bass, Mrs Mallin and Mrs Cuff were incredibly proud of them. Well done all!

Art

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

Mr Bass

Year 3:

Year 3 have travelled back to the time before anything was written down this term.... pre-history! In literacy we have really enjoyed reading 'Stig of the Dump' by Clive King. We wrote letters, dialogue and even a police report on events from the story.

Next, we thoroughly immersed ourselves in Stone Age life during our trip to Compton Verney to take part in their Stone Age Settlers Workshop. We learned how the very first settlers made shelters and built walls using wattle and daub. We ground flour to make stone age bread, created our own cave paintings using natural ingredients and our absolute favourite activity was creating a spark to light a fire. We decided that it was very hard work being a Stone Age person, and we were exhausted at the end of the day!

In maths we have been working really hard to use vocabulary and drawings in our reasoning and problem solving work on mass and capacity. We have also continued learning our Times Tables and working to improve our heat maps.
Finally, Year 3 were invited to take part in Solihull Sings at Solihull school. The children gave a fabulous performance in Bushell Hall with three other schools. They represented the school so well and I was extremely proud of them all! Thankyou Year 3 for another fun packed term!
Have a great break!

Mrs Jones and Mrs Chamberlain

Year 4:

What an amazing half-term the children have had! Lots of learning has taken place as we explored new topics and revisited some familiar ones too.
In maths we have returned briefly to working with decimals but will move on to the real-world skills of dealing with time and money! In English, we have started our new text, 'Raven Boy' by Pippa Goodheart. This is the story of a boy living in 17th Century London at the time of the Plague. The poor boy has lots of tragedies in his life and we follow his journey and an evolving friendship with a rather unusual creature. The children have been really inspired by the text and have already produced some fantastic writing together with great memories of their time in Year 2. They particularly enjoyed writing a gruesome piece about the effects of the plague!
History has been replaced by Geography for this summer term, and we have started by looking at the Earth; its key features and the art of how to find a location using only the latitude and longitude co-ordinates. Our challenge to the children is to find where in the world we might be, if we are at: 52.4244° N, 1.7024° W? In Science we are exploring the science of Sound. Through lots of discussion and practical experiments, we have investigated how sounds are made, how they travel and what can stop them!
The class are continuing to enjoy their Ukulele lessons and are focused on rehearsing old and new pieces for their concert in Summer Term 2. We are also extremely fortunate to welcome a specialist cricket coach who is helping the children to learn, or improve, their skills in batting and fielding in readiness for the 'Chance to Shine' cricket tournament in June.

Mrs Guerin and Mrs Mallin

Year 5:

Year 5 have had a fabulous (short) half term! We started our History topic on the Anglo-Saxons and have used maps to demonstrate where in Europe the different clans such as the Angles, Saxons or Jutes travelled from and where they settled in Britain. The children enjoyed investigating different artefacts (and how different types of soil can help to preserve or erode them), and about the great discovery of Sutton Hoo, an Anglo-Saxon long ship with an important king buried within.

The children have really immersed themselves in our Art topic of Mark Rothko and Jackson Pollock, all about colour and emotions. The children have asked questions about their work to develop their learning, studied Rothko's colour-field paintings and experimented themselves with blending colours to encapsulate an emotion of their own.

In our English lessons we have also started studying two new books this half term. The first, 'Viking Boy' by Tony Bradman (which dovetails beautifully with our History topic of the Anglo Saxons,) has produced some wonderful writing to show our understanding of Vallhalla. We have also started reading 'The Purple Lady' by Jamilla Gavin and the children are being inspired to write using powerful vocabulary, similes and personification which will culminate this term on writing our own quest stories. We hope to publish them soon but, beware, we have been focusing on our descriptions and choosing language to make them sound terrifying – they may give you nightmares!!!!

On top of this we have begun our "Chance to Shine" cricket coaching and have been learning to work together as a team and bowling and batting accurately, honing our skills in time for the Cricket Festival in the second half of the Summer term. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their experience and are very much looking forward to representing George Fentham.

Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Kermode

Year 6:

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

Year 6 are now focusing on Extended Writing, along with learning about evolution within their Science lesson. In Art, the children will soon produce drawings based on the work of L. S. Lowry. I will include examples, once they are complete, within the next Newsletter. I am looking forward to making our Indian vegetarian curry after half term – I hope you enjoy it.

We can now look forward to a fantastic end of year, with our Residential only a few weeks away and a packed final half-term to enjoy.

Miss Timothy

Music – Mrs Kermode

Year 3 continued their singing practise in preparation for their participation in 'Solihull Sings' at Solihull School on 21st May 2025. We are very grateful to Ms Sainsbury from Solihull Prep School who has been in to teach the children a number of different songs and actions. The concert was the culmination of many weeks of hard work, learning a wide variety of songs from memory. It was a fabulous way to help the confidence and motivation of the children, to work as part of a wider community group and to bring families together through music. Mrs Jones, Mrs Kermode and Mrs Chamberlain were so proud of the way that all children conducted themselves on the day, showing great enthusiasm for the occasion as well as care and friendship for each other. They were a real credit to their families and wonderful ambassadors for our school. Well done to each and every one of you!

Year 4 have continued their Ukulele sessions as part of 'Wider Opportunities' taught by Solihull Music Service. The children are continuing to make excellent progress and are confidently able to hold their instruments and understand about the different strings and finger positions.

Congratulations Year 4 on a successful half term - we are really looking forward to hearing all that you have learnt towards the end of the Summer Term!
Finally, instrumental lessons have been continuing weekly and the children are enjoying their sessions with the Solihull Music staff. **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. We are hoping to have some taster assemblies after half term in order to demonstrate the wide variety of instruments that are on offer.

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.

School Sports – Mrs Bradburn

There are still a few spaces left in the after school sports clubs if your child would like to participate. Please contact the school office for details.

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.

107 children achieved 100% attendance in Spring Term 2. A very big "well done!" to those that achieved 100%. All of the children that achieved 100% attendance were rewarded with a certificate to recognise this achievement. Please see below the percentage of children by year group that achieved 100% attendance in Spring Term 2:

- Year 3 18 children out of 28 = 64%
- Year 2 17 children out of 29 = 59%
- Year 4 13 children out of 23 = 57%
- Year 6 14 children out of 26 = 54%
- Year 5 14 children out of 28 = 50%
- Year R 14 children out of 30 = 47%
- Year N 8 children out of 22 = 36%
- Year 1 9 children out of 27 = 33%

Marie Curie

Last Half term we had Marie curie Daffodils in school which the children were able to support if they wanted to and we raised a total of £46.15. Thank you for your generosity.

Safety in the sun

As we move into the summer months please:

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

Nursery Spaces September 2025

And Finally….

I would like to end our Newsletter by echoing the lovely comments made by Miss Timothy regarding our Year 6 children. This half term, Year 6 children across the country have taken part in National Key Stage 2 SATs. At George Fentham Endowed School we take great care to prepare the children, in every way possible, to ensure SATs week runs smoothly and all children are able to fully access the tests and do their very best.

This year our Year 6 children have been exemplary in their attitude and behaviour, not just during the tests but throughout the whole year, including the weeks prior to the tests themselves.

Using their BLP skills they have shown resilience and perseverance throughout, demonstrating a real "can do" attitude. They are an absolute credit to their families and to our school and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

We wish you an enjoyable half term break and look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 2nd June 2025.

Mrs J Gaughan
Headteacher