GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER SUMMER 1 2024

MAY 2024

Term Dates

SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	2023/2024
Summer Term	Monday 8th April 2024 - Monday 22nd July 2024
Half Term	Monday 27th May 2024 – Friday 31st May 2024
5 INSET DAYS	Inset Day 4: Friday 24th May 2024 Inset Day 5: Monday 22nd July 2024

Dates for Diary 2023/24

Thursday 6th June	Dentist visiting all children in Assembly
Wednesday 12th - Friday 14th June	Yr6 Residential Culmington Manor
Thursday 13th June	EYFS Father's Day Stay and Play
Thursday 13th June	Yr 4 Cricket Berkswell
Tuesday 18th June	School Sports Day
Thursday 20th June	Yr 5 Cricket Berkswell
Thursday 20th June	Tag Rugby Festival
Monday 24th June	Reserve Sports Day
Thursday 27th June	Borough Athletics
Thursday 4th July	EYFS Trip to Parkridge
Friday July 5th	Yr 2 Tri Golf Festival
Thurs/Fri 11th/12th July	Reception Bikeability sessions
Monday 15th July	Yr 4 Birmingham City Mosque
Monday 15th July	Open Evening

Class Assemblies 2024

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to our class assemblies. Please see the dates and times below. Please note, should we need to change any of these dates or times we will let you know as early as possible.

Year Group	Date	Time
Reception	Friday 12th July	9.05am
Year 1	Wednesday 26th June	9.05am
Year 2	Monday 1st July	9.05am
Year 3	Friday 21st June	9.05am
Year 4	Wednesday 3rd July (In conjunction with Solihull Music Service)	2pm
Year 5	Wednesday 22nd May	9.05am
Year 6 (school)	Tuesday 16th July	9.05am
Year 6 (church) Parents Only	Thursday 18th July	9.30am

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.

School Office

Due to limited capacity in the school office, please ensure your child arrives at school with everything they need for the day or for an after school club. This includes:

- packed lunches
- water bottles
- musical instruments
- PE & Sports kits
- Homework
- Coats or sunhats

For extended periods of time there is only one member of staff in the office and it is extremely difficult to regularly leave the office unattended in order to deliver the above items around school. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Promoting Good 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.

Reporting School Absence:

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

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

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

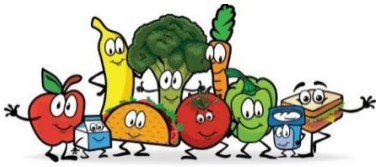
Change of pick up end of school day

To continue to ensure the safety of your child, please can you inform the class teacher in writing or send an email to the school office notifying us of a change to pick up at the end of the school day.

If you have emailed the office, we will do our best to let you know we have received the request and will then pass the message on to the class teacher. It is essential that these requests are received by **2:30pm** so that we have time to respond.

Important -School Lunches – Paying by Parent Pay

With regards to paying for School lunches via Parent Pay, please can you ensure your child's account is credited with enough money to cover the cost of their school meals (£2.70 per day). If this is not the case, we may contact you to discuss the option of a packed lunch until any debt is cleared.



Class Events

Nursery:

We have had a really exciting half-term learning about life cycles and have enjoyed watching this in action. We had frogspawn at the beginning of the term and were in awe of the changes that we observed over the weeks. We are pleased to report that the resulting froglets have now been safely released into their natural habitat.

We have also learnt about the life cycle of a caterpillar and will be observing the changes that happen after half-term when our caterpillars arrive. In maths the children made some beautiful symmetrical butterflies.

Next half-term our learning theme is 'Amazing Animals' and we have our EYFS visit to the Parkridge Centre to look forward to.

EYFS Father's Day Event

Thursday June 13th

Nursery 10:40am to 11:40am

Reception change of time 9:00am to 10am

Please see the separate letter and book your place via ParentPay

Mrs Bromhall

Reception:

This half term Reception have been beside the seaside! The children have really enjoyed learning about life in the oceans and seas. We have read some lovely books that have supported our writing, including 'Commotion in the Ocean', 'The Rainbow Fish', 'The Train Ride', as well as lots of non-

fiction texts to help us find out information. We also have a class bear called Travelling Tom. He loves adventures so has been going home with someone every weekend. We love to find out what he has been up to, so far he has been on a tractor, played lots of sport, been to Wales and visited the Lake District!

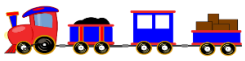
We have sailed the seven seas and been on train and aeroplane journeys in our role play area. We have used compasses and maps to navigate our journeys. We have talked about explorers and imagined we were exploring and finding new things.

In our maths work we have been concentrating on numbers and numerical patterns. Knowing our number bonds, doubles and odd and even numbers are important skills to learn too!

Our PE lessons have focussed on Dance. We worked together and learnt a Circassion Circle Dance.

We have developed our observational drawing skills using sea treasures as a stimulus. We selected appropriate colours to give shade and texture to our drawings.

We have had some important discussions about keeping our beaches clean and how we can be responsible when visiting the beach. Have a wonderful half term holiday.



Mrs Brown

Year 1:

This half term seems to have flown by and we cannot believe the children will be embarking on their last half term in Year 1. We have been so busy and the children have all been brilliant. They work so hard in all their subjects and are producing some fantastic pieces of work.

In History we have started our new topic of 'Toys from the Past'. Year 1 loved exploring and playing with Victorian toys and comparing them to modern day toys. We are looking forward to our trip to The Herbert Museum in July to consolidate all of our learning from this topic. In Science we have been learning about the human body and exploring the five senses. In one of our lessons Year 1 had to guess six different smells, they were brilliant at this and their favourite smells were definitely cinnamon and lemon!

On Monday 22nd April, in the afternoon, Year 1 hosted a Phonics workshop. Parents were invited in to find out more about how phonics is taught and how they can support at home. The afternoon was a hive of activity when the children were all able to join their parents, taking part in fun and creative games all linked to learning phonics.

A reminder that the phonics screening check will be taking place during the week commencing 10th June. Please continue to practise phonics at home. A massive thank you to all parents for your support on this.

Mrs Mandell and I would like to thank both parents and children for the fantastic collection of homework that has been sent in this half term. We have praised the children when they have brought pieces in, especially when they have stood up in front of the class to show everyone what they have done. The children have also been awarded with a special 'Homework' Dojo which they have loved getting. It is evident that so much time and effort has gone into creating all the wonderful pieces of work. We hope you enjoyed the homework as much as we have enjoyed looking at everything and seeing the pride on the children's faces. We are so very proud of them!

Mrs Salmon and Mrs Mandell

Year 2:

In our English lessons we have been enjoying 'The Lighthouse Keeper ' by Ronda and Richard Armitage. Industrious Mr Grinling, his clever wife Mrs Grinling and masterful cat Hamish, tend the lighthouse. They get into one scrape after another, but always find a solution. We especially enjoyed hearing about how Mr Grinling finds a way to stop the greedy seagulls from stealing his lunch! Now we are looking forward to making our own bread for sandwiches in D&T next term.

In Geography we have been widening our knowledge and understanding of the United Kingdom and its place in the world. We have studied a world map, identifying continents and oceans and we located the countries in Europe. On a map of the UK we labelled the main countries as well as some cities including Birmingham. It was interesting learning about London, Edinburgh, Belfast and Cardiff. We'll hopefully be able to find our way around pretty well now!

As part of our Art Curriculum we have enjoyed learning about sculpture. We made pipe cleaner mannequins and turned them into sculptures inspired by Anthony Gormley. Then we learnt about Henry Moore and turned our artistic hands to clay to make some holey, reclining abstract human sculptures.

Mr Bass and Mrs Mallin

Year 3:

Year 3 have travelled back to the time before anything was written down this term.... pre-history! 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 Art, we have looked closely at the work of Quentin Blake and what makes his illustrations so unique. We have enjoyed imitating his work, and then innovating, by creating aliens using exaggerated features just like the artist.

Mrs Hodge

Year 4:

What an amazing half-term the children have had! Lots of learning has taken place, but so much fun had at the same time. The children particularly enjoyed our new D&T topic, which investigated the use of levers to create moving pictures. After looking at a variety of books with moving parts and analysing how they worked, the children were tasked with producing their own moving parts. The children were absorbed with this and really persevered, even when the task proved to be very tricky.

In English, we 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 produced some fantastic writing. They particularly enjoyed writing a gruesome piece about the effects of the plague!

We have been extremely lucky in our PE lessons to have received training from a specialist cricket coach. The coach has helped the children to improve their skills in throwing, batting and fielding in preparation for the 'Chance to Shine' cricket tournament next half-term.

In Music the children have been working extremely hard and continue to learn so much. They are currently refining their final piece of music and revisiting some older pieces in order to begin rehearsing for a music ensemble that we are hoping to invite parents to next half-term…. More details will be emailed shortly!

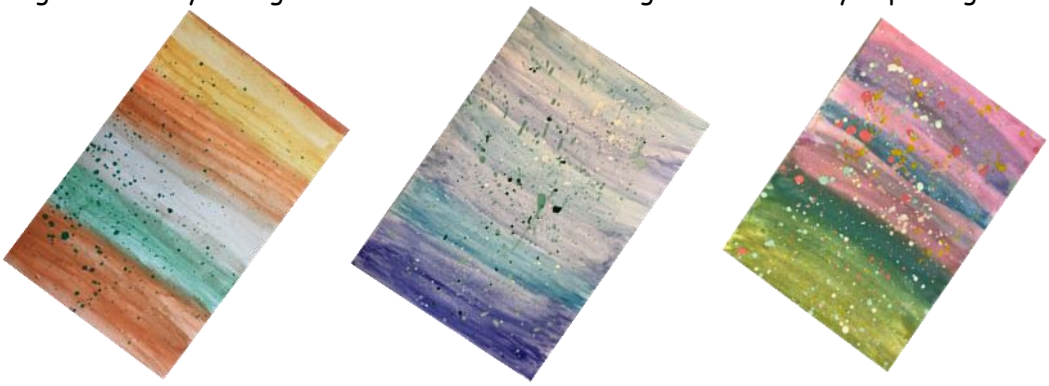
Mrs Briggs and Mrs Gibbons

Year 5:

We have been focusing this term on writing our own quest stories based on 'The Purple Lady' by Jamilla Gavin. 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!!!!

We have also been reading 'Viking Boy' by Tony Bradman which is linked to our work on Anglo Saxons. We have produced some wonderful writing to show our understanding of Vallhalla and we were great archaeologists when we tried to work out who was buried at Sutton Hoo.

In Art we have looked at the work of Rothko and Pollock and have shown great creativity in combining the two styles together. The children's blending skills are really improving!



Finally, Year 5 ended the term with a fabulous Class Assembly presenting a fashion show inspired by all the characters that they have been learning about, across the curriculum, this half-term. We hope Year 5 Parents and Visitors were as proud of the children as we were – walking down a catwalk with all eyes on you can be a pretty scary experience and they were so brave!

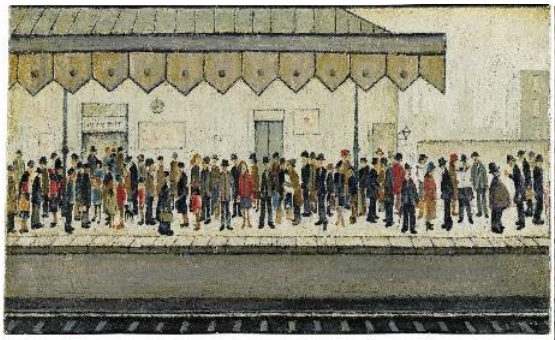
Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Kermode

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 focussing on Extended Writing, along with learning all about their local area, Hampton in Arden. In Art, the children have started to produce some wonderful drawings based on the work of L. S. Lowry and I look forward to seeing their skills develop further.

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



Miss Timothy

School Sports

Summer Clubs

We have had a wonderful response to this half-term's clubs and would like to remind you that these will continue after the half term break with one change. Thursday afterschool, Year 5/6 Dodgeball club has now finished and KS2 Rounders begins on Thursday 6th June. We still have a few spaces left and would like to get more Year 5 & 6 children along so that we can enter a tournament – Please ring the office to claim a place for your child.

Polite Reminder- **Clubs finish at 4.20pm.** Please be here to collect your children promptly as the coaches have other commitments that they need to get to.

George Fentham Street Tag Team

We are currently 4th out of all Solihull Schools taking part as St Patricks School has had a surge over the weekend and went one position above us. Be sure to load up the PE codes to get bonus

points and use your power hour to get TRIPLE points. We want to be in that top three!!! Remember you can keep collecting tags wherever you are this half term. If you are going away, check out the tags at your holiday destination- you can always add some of your own if there are not many around. Good Luck, stay active & safe.

Local Links

We have been asked to share the following promotions with you by some local clubs. **GFES have not vetted these providers** but are pleased to share them with you as part of our gateway to active lifestyles.

10 great reasons to PLAY SQUASH
It gets you FIT
Squash involves burst of high intensity followed by short periods of rest - the very definition of HIIT training. With all its stop-starts and turns, it can give you a strong body as well.
It's SOCIAL
Whether having a hit with friends or joining a drop-in session at your local club, squash helps people to connect and form new social circles.
It's FUN
Whatever their age or ability, the number one reason people play squash is because it's fun!
It's a QUICK WORKOUT
Court bookings typically last 40 minutes making squash a great fitness option for those who are short of time.
It BURNS CALORIES FAST
From just 30 minutes of squash, you can burn up to 500 calories. That's more than running, cycling or swimming according to research on calorie expenditure by Forbes.
It can help you LIVE LONGER
People who regularly play racket sports are 53% less likely to experience cardiovascular disease according to the British Journal of Sports Medicine.
It's for EVERYONE
You don't need to be the fittest, the strongest or the most skilled to play squash. With programmes like Squash Girls Can and Squash 101, there are opportunities for everyone.
It makes you HAPPY
There's nothing like hitting a ball against a wall as hard as you can to help get all that negative energy out! Squash can help reduce stress, release endorphins and improve your mood.
It is AFFORDABLE
Basic equipment is cheap and court hire can be as little as £5 per person. With affordable social group sessions at clubs and leisure centres, squash has never been easier to access on a budget.
It's ALL-WEATHER
Come rain or shine, squash can be played all year round.
ENGLAND squash
visit: englandsquash.com

EIGHT BASIC RULES OF SQUASH
1. SQUASH EQUIPMENT
Squash is played between two players on a squash court using a squash racket, a squash ball and non-marking shoes.
2. SCORING
Matches are the best of 3 or 5 games. Each game uses point a rally scoring to 11. If the score in a game is tied at 10-10, a player must win by 2 clear points.
3. HOW TO WIN POINTS
Points can be scored by either player. When a player fails to serve or to make a good return, the opponent wins the point. When the receiver wins a point, they become the server and add one to their score.
4. SERVICE
The ball must be volleyed and must be served direct on to the front wall above the service line (middle line on the front wall). On its return, it must fall to the floor within the back quarter of the court opposite to the server's box.
5. PLAY
After a good serve, the players return the ball alternately until one or other fails to make a good return.
6. A GOOD RETURN
A return is good if the ball, before it has bounced twice on the floor, is returned by the striker on to the front wall without touching the floor, provided the ball is not hit twice, or out, or touches the tin.
7. LETS
If a player thinks they may hit their opponent with the ball or racket or the ball hits their opponent, 'STOP' and play a let. You then replay the point.
8. FREEDOM TO PLAY THE BALL
After playing the ball, a player must make every effort to get out of the opponents way.
ENGLAND squash

Grasp the basics of squash with our action-packed new junior programme...
JUNIORS - JOIN THE FUN
WHEN: 10am - Saturday 25th May 2024
WHERE: Hampton In Arden Sports Club
B92 0DQ
COST: First Session Free!
CONTACT: Jim Tregartha
07920231005
jimtregartha@hotmail.co.uk
englandsquash.com
ENGLAND squash JUNIOR 101
Coach

Congratulations!!

The children and staff would like to say a huge well done to Stacey from our school kitchen who took part in the Great Birmingham Run, completing her first 10km race. What a brilliant achievement and inspiration to us all!

Mrs Bradburn, PE Subject Leader

School Council – Mrs Bailey

This half term, the School Council have been completing a piece of work with Mrs Bradburn related to the playground and its usage.

Each of the pairs of children, had questions to ask their class about what type of activities they would like to be available and what their playtime experience was like.

After half term, we will then collate these responses together, in order to develop the playtime experience for all.

Mrs Bailey, Deputy Headteacher

Money Week

Over the course of the past week, the children have been taking part in 'Money Week' supported by materials from the Financial Education Programme – Lifesavers. The LifeSavers resources align with the National Curriculum and focus on improving numeracy and critical thinking, as well as key money concepts.

In Reception and Key Stage 1, the children have been learning all about Milo the Dinosaur and how he manages his money effectively and in Key Stage 2 the children have encountered 5 Big Questions related to money: 1) Where does our money come from? 2) How does our money make us feel? 3) What can we use our money for? 4) How does our money help other people? and 5) How can we look after our money?

Mrs Bailey, Deputy Headteacher

Eco-Council

As always, our Eco-Councillors have continued to promote eco-causes this half-term. We have continued to work on the plans for the sustainability garden, which are proceeding well. Our Councillors collaborated with their classes to produce a list of ideas that the children of the school would like to see incorporated into the final design. It was lovely to see that the children had so many wonderful suggestions, such as specialist seating, planters, observation resources, sensory products (wind chimes, spinners) and a weather station. There were so many ideas, far too many to mention here.

We also wanted to promote Fairtrade in school and this was included on the display board in the corridor. An assembly on Fairtrade has been scheduled for just after half-term. This will support the Global Goal of 'No Poverty' from the Global Goals of Sustainable Development.

And so as we approach the final half-term… without letting too much information out, we have an exciting end to the year planned…

Thank you to everyone that has supported our Eco-Councillors so far this year.

Mrs Briggs, Eco Council Lead

Hampton Society – Nature Day and Competition

We were delighted to welcome a member of the Hampton Society to our Assembly on Thursday 23rd May. This was a great opportunity to talk about, and promote, the Nature Day being held in the Village on Sunday 9th June. Please see the information sent out previously on ParentPay. We have also sent out details on how children can take part in the Nature Day Competition.

We look forward to seeing lots of entries after half term!

PTFA - School Disco

On Thursday 25th April the PTFA School Disco was held. The children had a lot of fun and were very well behaved. We are very happy to say that a grand total of **£390 profit** was made. A really big thank you goes out to all the members of the PTFA and to all of those staff members that helped on the day.

Parent Questionnaire

Last term all parents were invited to complete a School Parent Questionnaire. We had 100 responses and have carefully analysed the feedback we received. As you will see, responses were overwhelmingly positive.

Never complacent, School Leaders and Governors are using this feedback to support our continuous George Fentham Endowed School improvement journey.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
4. My Child is happy at this school	61	35	2	0	2
5. My child feels safe at this school	70	27	1	0	2
6. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	51	47	1	0	1
8. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	47	44	7	0	2
11. My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed	7	5	1	0	0
12. The school has high expectations for my child	43	42	2	1	12
13. My child does well at this school	47	46	0	1	6
14. The school lets me know how my child is doing	33	54	6	2	5
15. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	47	44	1	0	8
16. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school	41	46	5	2	6
17. The school supports my child's wider personal development	32	46	3	0	19

7. My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	My child has not been bulled	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
	69	7	11	3	0	10
9. When I have raised any concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly	I have not raised concerns	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
	39	36	20	3	1	1

10. Does your child have special educational needs and / or disabilities	Yes	No
	13	87
18. I would recommend this school to another parent.	Yes	No
	99	1

Marie Curie 2024

Last term we had the Marie Curie daffodil boxes in school to support The Great Daffodil Appeal and all children were invited to make a donation if they wished to do so in return for a daffodil badge, we are very pleased to say that as a school we raised £51.32 for this appeal. Thank you for your support.

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.

Medicines in School - REMINDER

Our Medicines in School and Administering Medicines policy are both on our school website, along with the permission forms for prescribed and over the counter medicines.
Should your child require any medication during the school day, please complete the relevant form and bring this, with the medicine, directly to the school office. Medicines must not be sent in with children.
It is really important that your child's medicine has the prescription label on it and that your instructions exactly match the dosage prescribed.

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: Break time Snacks and Water Bottles

Snacks
As part of our Healthy Schools approach, we ask for your support in **only sending in pure fresh or dried fruit and vegetables for morning snack. No other snacks are permitted.** Please note fresh fruit or vegetables are provided by school for all children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Key Stage 2 children should be provided with a fruit or vegetable snack from home.
Water Bottles
Children have access to their water bottles during the day and are regularly reminded to drink. Please encourage your child to do this and **ensure that drinking bottles contain water only**. Should you wish your child to have milk at break time details are available from the school office.

No Nuts in School

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

Reminder – Car Parking and Voluntary One-Way System

Thank you to all of our parents and visitors who park carefully, considering the safety and well-being of our children, families and residents.

The Nursery car park is for use by Nursery parents only at the start of the day. Please ensure your car is parked in one of the marked bays not abandoned in the entrance or exit which causes blockages in the car park and on Fentham Road.

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.

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.

And Finally

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the children and staff for their hard work so far this year. In our final half-term we have lots of exciting things planned including class trips and visits, our Year 6 residential, lots of sporting events, Sports Day, Class Assemblies, Open Evening and so much more!

We hope you enjoy a lovely half term next week and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 3rd June.

Mrs J Gaughan
Headteacher