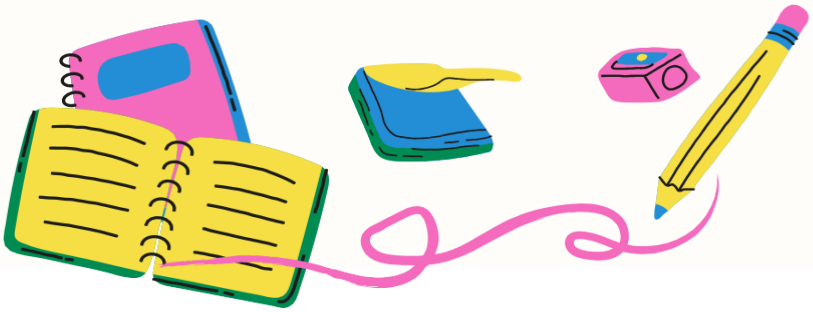
George Fentham Endowed School Newsletter



Summer 2 2025

Thank you to those of you who completed the newsletter survey. We value your feedback and following on from your responses we have made some alterations. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and you find it interesting and informative! It was clear that the two main areas of interest were the dates section and class updates. You also told us that you find the static information repetitive every half-term. We have, therefore, decided to create an information booklet which, once completed, will be sent out electronically to all parents at the start of each year for reference. We will also include this information in our starter pack for all new families and add a copy to our school website. Thank you for your support in this matter.

TERM DATES

SCHOOL TERM & DATES	2025/2026
SUMMER TERM 24/25	TERM ENDS MONDAY 21ST JULY – INSET DAY 5
AUTUMN TERM 2025/26	MONDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2025 – FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2025
HALF TERM	MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2025 – FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2025
SPRING TERM 2026	MONDAY 5TH JANUARY 2026 - FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 2025
HALF TERM	MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2026 – FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2026
SUMMER TERM	MONDAY 13TH APRIL 2026 - MONDAY 20TH JULY 2026
MAY DAY	MONDAY 4TH MAY 2026
HALF TERM	MONDAY 25TH MAY 2026 - FRIDAY 29TH MAY 2026
5 INSET DAYS 2025/2026	INSET DAY 1: Monday September 1st 2025 INSET DAY 2: Friday 24th October 2025 INSET DAY 3: TBC INSET DAY 4: TBC INSET DAY 5: Monday 20th July 2026

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 21st July 2025	Inset Day 5 and End of School Year
Monday 1st September 2025	Inset Day 1
Friday 26th September 2025	Seasonal Childhood Flu Programme (Reception to Year 6)
Monday 13th October 2025	Individual Photographs
Tuesday 3rd February 2026	National Childhood Measurement Programme (R & Yr 6 only)

CLASS TEACHERS 2025/26

Please see our letter dated Friday 11th July for all staffing updates.

*Staffing changes for academic year 2025/26

Class	Teacher(s)
Nursery	Mrs Bromhall
Reception	Mrs Brown
Year 1	Mrs Salmon (Mon – Wed) and Mrs Barratt (Thu – Fri)
Year 2	Mr Bass
Year 3	Mrs Jones
Year 4	Mrs Bradburn (Mon – Wed) and Mrs Kermode (Thu – Fri)
Year 5	Mrs Bailey
Year 6	Miss Timothy

2024/25 REPORTS REMINDER

It was a real pleasure to read all of the children's reports this term. Thank you to everyone who has sent back their child's report slip. Please ensure all slips are sent back to school as soon as possible. Your feedback is important to us and greatly appreciated.

OPEN EVENING

It was lovely to welcome all of our visitors to school on Monday 14th July for our Open Evening. We really hope that you all enjoyed looking at your child's work and talking with their teachers. This was also a lovely opportunity to visit their next classroom and meet their new teacher(s). The children are always very proud to share their work and achievements with you.

CELEBRATING 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 in order to increase attendance.

SUMMER TERM 1 ATTENDANCE

1st Year 6	**22 out of 26 children 100% attendance**	**84.61%**
2nd Year 4	**18 out of 22 children 100% attendance**	**81.81%**
3rd Nursery	**16 out of 24 children 100% attendance**	**66.66%**
4th Year 2	**19 out of 29 children 100% attendance**	**65.51%**
5th Reception	**19 out of 30 children 100% attendance**	**63.33%**
7th Year 1	**17 out of 28 children 100% attendance**	**60.71%**
7th Year 5	**17 out of 28 children 100% attendance**	**60.71%**
8th Year 3	**14 out of 28 children 100% attendance**	**50.00 %**

142 children achieved 100% attendance in SUMMER Term 1. All of the children that achieved 100% attendance were presented with a certificate to recognise this achievement.

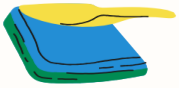
NURSERY

We have had a wonderful half-term with so many events and activities. Our EYFS Father's Day event was brilliant and the children all enjoyed showing their grown-up their classroom. As we had been learning about Amelia Earhart they made some impressive paper aeroplanes. The Nursery took part in their first Sports Day and were fantastic, showing great sportsmanship and cheering on their friends and siblings.

Transition has been a huge focus for us towards the end of this year and we have added in a few extra events to support the transition from Nursery to Reception. We have joined the 'bigger' children for a few playtimes and we have spent time with the Reception team in our new classroom, also meeting some new members of our class. The children have all taken this in their stride and we are confident that the children are well prepared for the next step in their school life.

As we are heading towards the end of the school year, we have reflected back on the journey we have had together since September and we are filled with pride. We have had a brilliant year and made many long-lasting memories. We would like to thank you for your continued support. Have a fabulous summer!

Mrs Bromhall & Mrs Porter



RECEPTION

Our learning theme, to conclude the year, was 'Around the World'. We have talked about journeys and transport. We have looked at maps and made our own maps of the local area. We learnt about Amelia Earhart and what it means to be a pioneer. We have read some lovely stories to inspire our writing and we had a wonderful stay and play for Father's day which was enjoyed by us all.

In preparation for Year 1 we have been visiting the new classroom and spending time with the new teachers as much as we can.

We are so proud of our Reception class. They have made so much progress and have learnt so much and kept us on our toes! They have had lots of memorable experiences to talk about in the future.

Have a fabulous summer holiday everyone, remember to have fun but don't forget to keep reading!

Mrs Brown and Mrs Flint

YEAR 1

What a Super Summer Term for Year 1!

As we wrap up another school year, we couldn't be prouder of our amazing Year 1 children and everything they've accomplished this year. This summer term has been nothing short of spectacular – filled with creativity, curiosity, and countless moments of joy and learning.

One of the highlights was our **hands-on pizza making activity,** where the children had a chance to become mini chefs. They loved choosing their own toppings and approached the task with great enthusiasm and teamwork. Not only was it delicious and fun, but it also helped build practical skills and confidence.

Our art lessons took inspiration from the iconic **Vincent van Gogh**. The children explored his vibrant style and expressive brushwork, creating their own masterpieces full of colour and imagination. It was wonderful to see them so absorbed in their learning.

We were also thrilled to visit the **Herbert Museum and Art Gallery.** This trip was a perfect opportunity for the children to make meaningful links between their **History and Art studies**. They explored real artefacts, admired incredible artwork, and even took part in a creative workshop that let their imaginations run wild. The excitement and curiosity they showed was inspiring.

We were also incredibly proud of the Year 1 children for their fantastic class assembly. They spoke clearly, sang with confidence, and shared their learning with such enthusiasm, it was a real joy to watch them shine!

This term has been a true celebration of growth and achievement. Year 1 have shown resilience, creativity, and a love of learning that makes us incredibly proud. We're so grateful to all the parents and carers for your continued support and to the children, for bringing such energy and wonder to every day.

We hope you all have a fantastic summer break. You've certainly earned it!

Mrs Barratt and Mrs Salmon

YEAR 2

This half term began with a BANG! Everything was geared towards our Class Assembly, "Subject Wars", and what a fabulous time we had! Learning lines, songs and rehearsing all helped us to develop our confidence (and we had great fun!).

For PE we have focused on developing our Athletic skills and used these to great effect during Sports Day, where we competed with enthusiasm and showed lots of perseverance.

In English, we've been completely immersed in our topic on William Shakespeare and learning all about "A Midsummer Night's Dream". We have researched the playwright, explored the text of the play, unpicked the vocabulary/language and done lots of performing. We have loved being ‘thespians’ and can’t wait to do more Shakespeare in Key Stage 2!

As part of our Design & Technology work, we've been looking at how bread is made - exploring the journey from field to plate. The children have had great fun designing and making their own loaf. Hopefully the finished products tasted as good as they looked?!

We have also loved learning about Seasides - Past & Present, in Geography. We’ve developed our understanding of Human and Physical Geography, using compass points and enjoyed looking at black and white photos of seasides long ago (bathing huts and long swimming costumes).

Mr Bass

YEAR 3

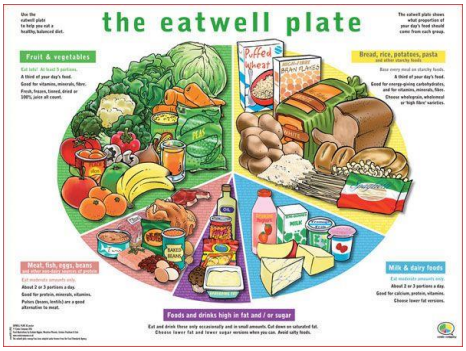
Year 3 have had an amazing final term! We really enjoyed creating our Ancient Egyptian Tomb Raiders assembly to showcase some of our learning to parents and carers. Thank you to everybody who came and showed their support, we loved performing!

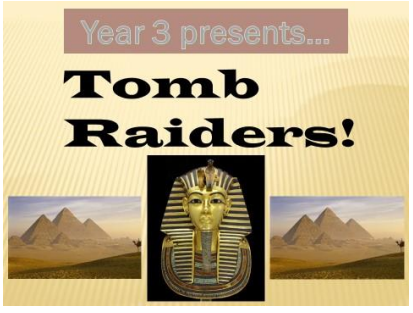
We have also thoroughly enjoyed our author study unit of work in English, finding out all about Cressida Cowell, author of the "How to Train Your Dragon" series. We wrote some wonderful biographies about her life and work. We even wrote a set of instructions for how to train a dragon in case we're ever lucky enough to find one!

In D&T we have designed and made a healthy sandwich, making links with our learning in Science about food groups. We had to make sure that our sandwich was balanced, which meant it had to include ingredients from a variety of different food groups. We tasted lots of different ingredients before we designed our sandwiches, so we had an idea of our preferences. In some cases, we had to be very brave when trying something new!

Finally, I'd like to end by saying thank you to all Year 3 for always being so engaged in all our topics and their endless enthusiasm. They really have been a joy to teach! They are an incredibly kind class and genuinely all get on so well. Thank you also to all the families for your support throughout the year. I hope you all have a wonderful summer. I will miss you Year 3!

Mrs Jones





YEAR 4

It is difficult to believe how much Year 4 have packed into the last seven weeks of the summer term. Each week, we have participated in a fresh challenge or celebrated skills we have developed through the year. Earlier in the term, we worked hard with a professional cricket coach in readiness for the 'Chance to Shine' Cricket Festival, organised by the South Solihull School Partnership where we competed against other schools at Berkswell Cricket Club. We fielded two teams who not only demonstrated their excellent sportsmanship and fair play, but won and lost their games by the narrowest of margins to add to the excitement.

Our next opportunity to celebrate all that we have learnt came at the Year 4 Ukulele concert, thanks to a whole year of lessons funded by The Fentham Trust. The children were amazing, working collectively to perform different pieces of music by strumming or plucking the strings on the 'dancing flea' as we learnt about the meaning of the word 'ukulele'. We would like to add a special thank you to Mrs Gosling and Mrs Adlington (Solihull Music Service) who have helped the children over the weeks on this journey.

The final presentation was the Year 4 Assembly which provided one more opportunity to explore the world of Times Table Rock Stars. The children have practised on paper, on screens and now the class have stretched their mathematical ability through costume, drama and song too! As with everything Year 4 have had a go at, they got stuck into the work and tried their best.

Finally, we would like to add what a pleasure it has been to work with Year 4 in 2025. They have worked hard, played hard and managed to keep their sense of humour along the way. We take away some very special memories of our time together and want to wish you all every success and happiness in Year 5.

Mrs Guerin and Mrs Mallin

YEAR 5

Year 5 have had a busy half term! In our History topic on the Anglo-Saxons, the children loved learning about Anglo-Saxon crime and punishment - the different trials such as trial by drowning, burning or stoning, and how much *wergild* (compensation) needed to be paid for different crimes. The children became jurors, looking at case studies to decide whether a person was guilty or not, and what sort of punishment they should receive.

The children have immersed themselves in our English lessons, learning all about the Anglo-Saxon warrior, Beowulf. The children designed a job-advert for a new warrior for Beowulf, thinking about what skills and experience the person applying might need and used emotive language to try and persuade the audience into applying. They also had fun making Grendel's severed arm out of clay, exhibiting it in our own class museum. They all looked very gruesome!

Year 5 represented George Fentham at the Chance 2 Shine competition at Berkswell Cricket Club. Their attitude was fantastic, showing brilliant inclusivity by creating warm-up games that everyone could participate in; modelling great batting, bowling and catching skills, remembering the rules and supporting other teams with fair game play in a calm and respectful manner. So much so that we came first out of all schools for our positive attitude and use of the games values!! Well done Year 5.

Year 5 have also taken part in Bikeability, showing how mature, safe and responsible they can be when cycling on the road. Well done to all children for improving their cycling skills and coping with the hot weather during the week. We hope that you will keep practicing and continue to think about cycling in order to help the environment.

Finally, Year 5 produced a fabulous Class Assembly presenting a mixture of poetry which they performed with great confidence and clarity. They had such a lot of words to learn and worked hard on their performance skills and use of eye-contact, as well as singing two songs with sign-language beautifully. We hope Year 5 Parents and Visitors were as proud of the children as we were. Well done!

Looking back at our Year 5 journey we are so proud of how hard the children have worked and how they have grown and matured. We wish them every success next year and think they will make a fabulous Year 6!

Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Kermode

YEAR 6

Year 6 have certainly been busy this half term! Not only have we been preparing and practicing for both the Leavers' Assembly and Church Service, but we have also been designing and sewing personalised cushion covers as part of our work in Design and Technology. I cannot wait to see the finished designs – the children will bring them home soon.
Another exciting part of our curriculum has been our many trips! We have been on residential, to an athletics competition, participated in swimming lessons and attended a Leavers' Service at St Philips cathedral. We even participated in tag-rugby coaching led by an expert!

We had a fantastic few days away at Culmington Manor in Shropshire. The children were a credit to the school and a fantastic supportive team. They faced their fears, ate lots of delicious meals and participated in a whole range of activities from abseiling to orienteering. We all had a fantastic time!

During the tag-rugby training, the children consistently portrayed the school games values of teamwork and resilience. Although we didn't manage to attend the festival due to being on our residential, the children trained amazingly well and should be very proud of themselves.
On Thursday 26th June 2025, the children attended a wonderful Leavers' Service at St Philips Cathedral. The Cathedral was full of children and teachers from various primary schools all singing together and listening to prayers and readings. The staff were so impressed with those children who carried our school shield and read passages from the Bible to the whole cathedral. They showed such bravery and decorum.

Year 6 have now made it to their final week at George Fentham Endowed School. I would like to thank you for your support this year and I wish all of the children and their families every success and happiness on their next adventure.

Miss Timothy

MUSIC – Mrs Kermode

Year 3 took part in 'Solihull Sings' at Solihull School on 21st May 2025. We are very grateful to Ms Sainsbury from Solihull Prep School who came in to teach the children a number of different songs and actions. It was evident that the children and Mrs Jones had worked so hard to showcase all that the children had learnt, and 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 behaved 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!

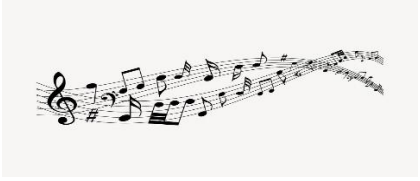
Year 4 continued their ukulele sessions as part of 'Wider Opportunities' taught by Solihull Music Service. The children made wonderful progress under the expert guidance of Ms Gosling - we thoroughly enjoyed their ukulele assembly, to the school and parents, where they demonstrated all that they have learnt in terms of holding the ukulele, the different finger positions and keeping in time with the beat. Congratulations Year 4 on a successful year - we really hope that you continue your music-making next year!

On Friday 11th July, Ms Gosling and her string pupils presented an assembly to the rest of the school. We were so proud of the confidence and musicality that all children showed and their performance skills have really come on since last year. Well done to all of you who took part - please keep it up next year!

Finally, instrumental lessons have been continuing weekly and the children are enjoying their music. In line with this, Solihull Music staff came in to school on Thursday 17th July to demonstrate a wide variety of different instruments to the children in an assembly, such as guitar, ukulele, strings and woodwind.

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. 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 your child, 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 for all instruments at the moment.



PE AND SPORT UPDATES - Mrs Bradburn

Sports Day

Sports Day is always one of the main events in our GFES school calendar and this year was no exception. The sun was shining, the children were cheering and everyone tried their hardest. The school games value this year was **DETERMINATION** and it could be seen on every child's face as they ran, jumped and threw their way to success. We were so proud of every single child. The day wouldn't have been possible without the support from teachers, parents, friends of GFES and our Year 6 sports leaders. Thank you everyone.
This year's winners were:
KS1 = **GREEN TEAM,** with blue team as runners up.
KS2 = **GREEN TEAM**, with Yellow team coming a close second.
The School Games Values awards went to: Morayo – Yr 6, Kaiden - Year 5, Penny - Year 4, Asa - Year 3, Nathanael – Year 2, Wren - Year 1, Gabe - Reception and Sunday - Nursery.

KS1 Shooting Stars Football

A huge **well done** goes to Amrita, Ava, Robyn, Elizabeth, Sophie K, Elah, Story, Florence & Reya who represented George Fentham for the first time at the KS1 Shooting Stars Football Festival. In the blazing sunshine the girls had to complete several Disney based challenges showing off their football skills. They were brilliant and the smiles on their faces said it all. We look forward to seeing them grow and becoming brilliant footballers for our school team.

Year 1 Cheerleading Competition

Our Year 1 Cheerleading team - Archie, William E, Sophie K, Wren, Harlow, Sophie, Aaryan, Story and Raya represented our school brilliantly in the Cheerleading Competition coming 5th out of 8 schools. Great fun was had by all!

Borough Athletics

Every year George Fentham goes from strength to strength in the Borough Athletics Competition and this year the team had the most successful year ever! The team of year 5 and 6 children were chosen from the afterschool athletics club and went to the Tudor Grange Arena, to experience the thrill of competitive track and field athletics. The standard was, as always, very high and the day was full of energy, noise and excitement. Our children were brilliant ambassadors for our school, gave it their all and competed with beaming smiles all round. We were so proud of everyone in the team, with many children achieving new personal bests. **With 330 team points, we came 3rd out of the eight school competing for the small school trophy! St James , who won, only had 334 points. So Close! In total we brought home 14 medals! Amazing!**

Special commendations go to:
Morayo – Silver 75m Sprint
Hermione – Bronze 600m Sprint
Freddie – Gold 600m Sprint
Henry – Gold Javelin
Joshua - Silver Javelin
Polly – Bronze javelin

Moryao, Hermione, Esme & Cassidy – Silver Girls' Relay
Freddie E, Freddie C, Jude & Jake – Bronze Boys' Relay

PE After School Clubs

Thank you to all the children who have participated in clubs this year. We are delighted to see so many of you making positive, healthy choices, showing commitment and determination within your chosen sport. Keep up the good work.
If your child has taken part in any club this year, please complete the questionnaire link below so that we can use your feedback to shape next year's offering.
https://forms.office.com/e/YWFhxi2P2p
We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all the coaches from Jet Dance, and Nat, Zac and Chloe, from Adaptive Sports, for all your support and hard work.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Join the reading adventure, Story Garden, this year's Summer Reading Challenge! Solihull Libraries are launching a challenge to children aged 4-12 to read six books across the school summer holidays and collect stickers and rewards along the way. The challenge begins on Saturday 12th July but you can join at any time and take part at any Solihull Library* (you just need to visit the same library each time). If children meet the challenge, they will earn themselves a certificate and a medal. But that's not all! All those who complete the challenge can enter a free prize draw to be in with a chance to win a £15 gift card for the Entertainer, or a £25 gift card for Waterstones or £30 to spend in Touchwood.

Visit the Summer Reading Challenge website:
https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/ for lots of games and competitions, together with the Book Sorter where children can write reviews and get suggestions for new books to try.

It's free to join the library, and free to take part in Story Garden with lots of fun activities in libraries across the summer –for details of all the library events take a look at https://www.solihull.gov.uk/library-events

So, come to the library for some creative inspiration and keep your kids' reading skills fit and healthy!
https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Libraries

*Knowle Library will not be participating this year as it is closed for essential work from the end of June until January 2026.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

As the school year comes to an end, the School Council have been creating a ‘shopping list’ of equipment they would like for the playground. They have looked closely at what each year group would like using the questionnaires and are doing their best to ensure that all ages are catered for. A new set of goals for the playground is top of their list along with some larger pieces of equipment that the PTFA are fundraising for.

ECO GROUP

A huge thank you to our Eco Councilor’s for reminding us about the importance of bees in our gardens. We home you enjoyed planting your sunflower seeds and watching them grow!

ON LINE SAFETY COMMITTEE

This term the children have been supporting with: design and creation of a parent information booklet, discussions with their peers about ‘what are the areas of Computing/ICT which they want to know more about?’ (e.g. AI, coding etc with outcomes to be shared) and identifying what the priorities are for next year. Thank you to all of our reps for their focus and commitment this year.

Nursery 2025/2026

AND FINALLY….

Goodbye to Year 6:

As we reach the end of the school year, we are saying a final goodbye and good luck to all of our Year 6 children. This week they presented their brilliant Y6 Leavers' Assembly and thoughtful Leavers' Service in Church. We have loved celebrating all of their successes and would like to congratulate them on all that they have achieved. We are incredibly proud of all of these children and wish them continued success in the future.

Thank You to The Fentham Trust:

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to The Fentham Trust for the financial support provided on an annual basis. This support makes a significant difference to children and staff and contributes to the on-going success of our school.

Thank You:

As we reach the end of this academic year, I would like to say a huge thank you to our children, staff, governors and families for their hard work, enthusiasm, and support. It has been a year full of memorable moments, meaningful learning, and we have had so much to celebrate. Watching our children flourish has been a real privilege.

I hope you all enjoy a well-earned summer break and I look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 2nd September 2025.

Mrs J Gaughan
Headteacher