

Galleywood Infant School

15th December 2015

Dear Parents,

At the end of November **Carrie Reed** joined our admin team. She works in the school office from 1-3:30 on four afternoons each week. Carrie will answer the telephone, take messages, respond to general queries, sell tickets, etc and a particular part of her job description from January will be to update and maintain the school website and Face book page. We are delighted to welcome her and hope that she is very happy working at Galleywood.

GIPA News

The Christmas Fayre on Friday 4th December was a wonderful event, well supported by families and friends of the school. Thank you to everyone who supported GIPA and especially to the committees for their great organisation and very hard work. Thank you for all your contributions- we had a wonderful collection of decorated jars this year! We are awaiting a final total now that all expenses claims have been submitted.

Three Grumpy Camels

We enjoyed welcoming families to our Christmas presentations last week. As usual it has been a huge team effort, sharing responsibility for the dances, music, acting, costumes and art work. We are very grateful to the team of mums (and a grandma!) who helped to make over 100 headbands. Thank you for your generous donations as you left the hall - we are awaiting a total and will divide the proceeds between Kerewan school and Make a Wish Foundation.

Festive hats and jumpers!

The Christmas Lunch on the last day of term is great fun with children and staff eating together, whilst other staff help to serve or wash up. It is also an opportunity for the whole school to say a special "thank you" to the kitchen staff, midday assistants and our admin team. To make the lunch colourful we would like your child to wear something festive - this could be a Christmas hat,

Christmas jumper or just bright colours for the last day of term!

Christmas Event

Galleywood library has a Christmas Event on Tuesday 22nd December from 2-4pm.



Governors

Merry Xmas from Governors! This term has seen a few changes with 4 New Governors on the Governing Body: Lisa Bone, Komel Bajwe, Christopher Fawcett and Neville Paul. Governors have been busy monitoring the school performance compared to elsewhere and compared with previous years. We continue to do very well and the school staff are to be congratulated.

Governors still have concerns about the road dangers to children outside school at the beginning and end of the day. We are continuing to explore ways in which we may be able to reduce the problem – but the simplest way is for parents to avoid bringing/collecting children to the immediate school vicinity by car.

In the New Year we will begin a cycle of monitoring visits to the school, especially focussing on the school priorities for this academic year.

January 2016 Dates!

Two dates for 2016 calendars and diaries!

You might have seen in our School Development Plan that we are working hard to meet the demands of the new English curriculum.

To enable parents to understand how to help and support with this, Miss Williams will lead an information workshop on **Monday 11th January from 2:15-3pm.**

Many parents have commented that they found the maths sessions really helpful - please come and find out how the expectations for teaching have changed, particularly in relation to grammar, spelling and punctuation.

On **Monday 18th January** we have arranged an **E-Safety workshop** with a company called ICT Inspires. They provide training and up to date information about ways to ensure your children are safe when they are playing and working online.

Many children now use tablets and their parents' smart phones - please make a note of this date and ensure that you are here from 1:30-3pm on 18th January to ensure you are well informed, aware of the dangers and able to work with the school to keep your children of any age safe online. A training session for the whole staff will follow from 3:30-5pm.

New Learning Theme!

After Christmas our Learning Theme throughout the school will be called **"Over the Bridge"**. You will find more details on our school website later this week. If you are out and about over the Christmas break, visiting relatives or out for days you could look for bridges, perhaps take photographs to share with the class? Children will be hearing stories, recognising famous landmarks, investigating materials and building their own bridges.

Questionnaires

Parents of children in the Foundation Stage have received a questionnaire today which we would like all families to take a few moments to complete. It is anonymous and can be returned to your child's teacher or directly to the school office by the end of this week if possible.

We will also be gathering views from the children in Foxes and Badgers class to find out which parts of the school day and the classroom / outdoor environment are favourites!



Term dates for 2016-17

Just in case you feel the urge to plan your summer holiday during the Christmas break we have published our 5 non pupil days and the term dates for 2016-17. See term dates attached. As this year we will take two non-pupil days in September to start the school year, which may enable families to take a late August / early September break at a better price.

The first day of term for all children will be **Monday 5th September 2016.**

Term ends on Friday 18th December at 3:10pm. We would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas.



Monday 4th January 2016 is a non pupil day for staff training. The school and office will be open from 9am.

We look forward to seeing the children on **Tuesday 5th January 2016 at 8:50am.**