

Wednesday 22nd February 2017

Galleywood Infant School

Dear Parents,

Goodbye to Mrs Comport, who has worked at our school for 14 years as a Learning Support Assistant. In recent years Mrs Comport has led a reading intervention, helping children in Yr1 and Yr2 to build sight vocabulary and phonics skills. We wish her a happy early retirement, with time to do the things she enjoys.



Science week- from Miss Mildinhall

Thank you to all the children and their families for taking part in this year's Science week. The staff have been overwhelmed by the number of Spacecraft entries for our competition- we were impressed by how creative and original they all were.

A winner from each class was selected along with four runners up and every child received a special science week certificate for their brilliant spacecraft.

The week started with an exciting assembly, after which each class took part in a science carousel day. Children took part in a range of different science experiments including, testing materials to make parachutes, chromatography, building and testing electrical circuits, creating volcanoes and making lava lamps.

Space camp was great fun, with children enjoying some activities to replicate the

tasks and training that astronauts including Tim Peake might have completed, as well as exploring alien slime! They took part in fitness tests, tasted space food, completed a space jump and also tried to complete intricate "repairs" using 'space gloves'. We hope that all of the parents, family and friends who joined us at the space camp had a great time too.

Everyone had an amazing day on Thursday when the mobile planetarium visited school. Every class went inside the planetarium and experienced a spectacular show which taught them lots about the solar system and the constellations. We are sure the children will remember this incredible experience for a long time.

Thank you to all the teaching and support staff for their hard work throughout the week. Look out for pictures of science week on our school website!

"I loved the space jump!"

"The rocket launch at lunch time was so much fun."

"This is wicked (planetarium)."



Mrs Read's visit to The Gambia was sadly cut short due to the threat of civil war and the British Foreign Office advising British citizens to return home. The letters written by Yr2 children and the boxes of trainers were delivered to the Pastor's compound and have now reached Kerewan, although Mrs Read was not able to deliver them personally this time.

For those of you who know and remember Mrs Read, she has just celebrated the safe arrival of her 6th grandchild, baby Olive.



Alison Brock, a Governor at our school for 9 years, stood down at the end of the Autumn term in order to become a Governor at her son's

school. She has contributed so much to our Governing body and is greatly missed. Alison brought her accountancy experience to support the work of the Resources Committee and took part in the Headteacher's annual performance review. Alison has carried out many Governor visits, most recently in her role as Pupil Premium Governor. We are very grateful to her for all her work on behalf of children, parents and staff.

Buddy's Challenge

We were delighted to receive a certificate from the NSPCC to acknowledge receipt of over £2,100! The children enjoyed Move in Monday, making Buddy's Challenge sponsored event massively successful! Thank you so much for supporting the NSPCC so generously.

Can you help?

The school currently has vacancies for 1 or 2 Governors. We have a strong group of parents already serving as Governors and although more parents would be welcome, it would also be useful to have some independent Governors who can contribute their experience and time to help our school retain its outstanding reputation. As each year goes by, all schools operate more independently from Local Authority control and each school is now a medium sized business that benefits from 'Non Executive' input.

Maybe you know of a grandparent, neighbour or acquaintance who would be prepared to contribute their energy to help all our young people. Our Chair of Governors would be happy to discuss the role with anyone interested and he can be contacted at robjpeters@googlemail.com

Reading Team

Our recent Pupil Progress reviews show just how much difference a few extra reading sessions can make to children's confidence and enthusiasm to read. A massive thank you to our reading team Cherrie Copping, Nicola Deakes, Kerry Franklin, Tracey Jennings, Kim Lewis, Kerry Mendham, Jo Rogers, Sue Saunders, Angelina Woolard & Grandad Toast!

Please remember that the school library is your resource. Miss Williams has just added another £300 worth of new books to top up the book band boxes! We would love to see more families changing reading books in the library at the beginning or end of the school day.

Just before half term was Safer Internet Day, which is coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre when hundreds of organisations get involved to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people.

The UK Safer Internet Centre provides resources for children, schools and families. Globally, Safer Internet Day is celebrated in over a hundred countries. This offers the opportunity to highlight positive uses of technology and to explore the role we all play in helping to create a better and safer online community.

The theme this year is '**Be the change: unite for a better internet**'.

The children are reminded how to stay safe online every time they use the internet at school, but if you would like to help make a positive change online at home click on the links below:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2017/tips-children-and-young-people/top-tips-under-11s>

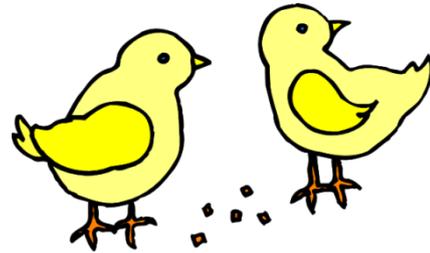
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

<http://parentzone.org.uk/article/phone-safety-and-selfies>

Spring Term Learning

Our Learning theme for this half term is The Circle of Life, and no doubt the children will already have told you about the incubator in the library. Three chicks have hatched and we are hoping for a few more later this week. Families are very welcome to visit the library to watch the chicks grow and change. Please ensure

that children are calm and sensible, and that they do not touch the chicks. Thank you.



Foundation Stage surveys

We have received 12 completed surveys so far! Please ask the teachers if you have mislaid the questionnaire- we would like to summarise your views and respond to your ideas early next week. Thank you.

The next **Messy Church**

at St Michael's Church Galleywood

is on Saturday

25th February at 4pm.



Pancakes and Prayers

All ages welcome, story,
crafts and food.

Come and make a fruity picture,
a Mardi Gras mask
and a pancake puppet.