



Galleywood Infant School

Friday 4th November, 2016

Dear Parents,

We hope you all enjoyed a lovely half term holiday and are excited to be back, starting a new learning theme "Sticks and Stones". The teachers in Yr1 and Yr2 have been overwhelmed by the response to the half term task- so many children have brought in writing, pictures, models, photographs and research about London. Thank you so much for supporting the school in this way- with this prior knowledge the children will gain so much more from our History Off the Page days next week.

We are expecting the weather to get colder over the next couple of weeks. Please ensure that your child has a coat at school every day- we will help them to do it up until they can do this independently. Any extra items such as gloves, scarves and hats are much easier to locate and return to the right family if they are named somewhere. Thank you.



Retirement

After more than 24 years working at Galleywood Infant School and St Michael's Church of England Junior School, Barry Foreman will be retiring at the end of this term. Barry is always cheerful, happy to help, and undertakes a huge variety of tasks within his role bringing skills in carpentry and plumbing to keep the two schools working efficiently. He deals calmly with floods, fixes things that are broken, supports the staff as a first aider and takes the lead as our Fire Marshall and Health and Safety Officer. In crisis situations he can clear jams in the photocopier and solve technical issues by "switching off and on again". Anyone who has attended the school campover, fetes and fairs knows that Barry puts in a lot of hours to ensure school events are safe and run smoothly. He clearly enjoys his daily chats with the children, who know he is coming when they hear the enormous bunch of keys! He will be greatly missed by the children, staff and parents in both schools. If you would like to contribute to a collection, please pop into the office where there is a book for your messages.

Barry's position has been advertised either as a full-time or part-time position jointly with St Michael's Junior School. If you know anyone who is interested, the job is advertised at the Galleywood shops, on the main school door and in the Essex Job Scene on line. We feel sure there is someone out there who would like to continue to make a difference to the lives of children in Galleywood.

Purple Mash

We are very excited to be launching a new home learning resource, Purple Mash. Each child will receive a personal username and login card in their reading record. The subscription has been funded with money raised by GIPA and will enable your children to access a number of programmes they use in school such as 2Create, 2DIY and 2Publish as well as lots of new games and activities. Thank you to Mrs Holden for setting this up - we hope you enjoy using it!



The Great Fire of London



We are looking forward to welcoming History Off the Page back to our school next week to lead two immersive days with a historical focus for Yr1 and Yr2 children. These events are always great fun and really make historical events come to life for the children. We welcome offers of help- no experience needed, just come and have fun with your child's class.

Open Mornings

Next week letters will be sent to all parents with a child due to start school in September 2017. Please make friends and family aware of our open morning on Tuesday 15th November and tours for prospective parents on:

Monday 21st November 11.00-12.00 noon

Thursday 1st December 9.30-10.30 am

Wednesday 7th December 9.30-10.30 am

Guide dogs

You may have noticed Axel, a trainee guide dog, on the school playground some mornings. Claire Blunden has asked whether, as part of preparing Axel to support a sightless person, he could experience our busy playground, hear children's voices and encounter new situations. We do not usually allow dogs near the school but see this as a really good way for the children to learn about the work of the charity Guide Dogs for the Blind, who have offered to lead an assembly involving Axel very soon! Please come and say hello to him - he is always on a lead and needs to meet lots and lots of people in order to do his very important job effectively.



Chess collection



A huge thank you for the very generous donations of food, cleaning products and toiletries children brought for the homeless people in Chelmsford. These were collected in half term and filled a van! CHESS are very grateful for our help and support, and look forward to us taking part in the great teddy sleepout- details next week!

Poppies

The Royal British Legion always bring poppies to be sold in school. Children will talk about the reasons that people wear poppies as part of an assembly and in their classrooms. If your child would like to buy a poppy please bring a donation next week, when Yr2 children will visit the classrooms each day.



Messy Church

The next Messy Church at St Michael's Church Galleywood is on

Saturday November 12th at 4pm

'The Ten Lepers' is a story of healing and thankfulness.

The all-age activities include making a bath bomb, a thank you cake and a paper weight.

The afternoon will finish with a meal and everyone is welcome.

