

Galleywood Infant School



Monday 6th July 2015

Dear Parents,

Our Children's Challenge Sports event on Thursday was very successful and defied the weather forecast! We were very lucky to have only the odd spot of rain and temperatures significantly lower than Wednesday. We are very grateful to Mrs Shiels and Miss Usher, who spent the morning setting up the event. We also owe our thanks to the Yr5 and Yr6 pupils from St Michael's, who took a short break from rehearsing Oliver to explain the challenge at each base in a gentle and encouraging way to your children. Every year many parents comment to me about how delightful and polite the Junior children are- their help at each base, with races, at the finish line and clearing away is invaluable to us. I know some of you were disappointed that we ran out of time for a parents' race- perhaps next year! Certificates for the highest scores in each class went to:

Rabbits: Daniel Selden and Sophie Shead

Squirrels: Keziah Burchell, Emma Cox and Olly Sweeting

Owls: James Eddie and Caitlin Harvey

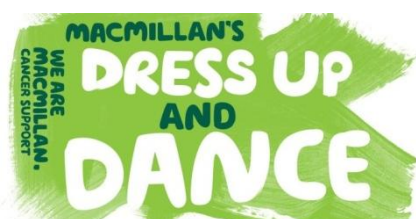
Hedgehogs: Nathan Lee and Georgie Ohrland

Foxes: Rohan Morris, Trinity Naidoo and Jaiden Neal

Badgers: Oscar Cheeseman and Alice Sweeting

Dress Up and Dance Day

Thank you for supporting our fund raising event for Macmillan Cancer Care last Friday. The children (& staff!) looked very colourful and enjoyed a day of dance activities both in class, and led by Astara. We raised £237 for Macmillan and had lots of fun!



Reports

On Friday parents received reports for children in the Foundation Stage and summary reports for children in Yr1 and Yr2. We try to make these as informative as possible so that you know how well your child is doing compared with the national expectations for their age. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress please arrange a time to meet with the teacher after school, or by arrangement during the school day. Once you have read the report and looked at your child's work on Thursday evening we would really value your comments to help us know what parents feel is working well, and what we could improve for next year. Thank you.

Forest Schools Area

In May a group of volunteers from TEG, The Environmental Group, worked over 2 or 3 Wednesdays to construct and install a circle of benches in our forest area. The benches are made from new oak railway sleepers and are much more comfortable than the logs! The circle is always the start and end point for every Forest Schools session. We are very grateful to the group for their time on this project, and earlier in the year when they carried out extensive maintenance work on the willow dome and wildlife area. Look out for a photo in the Galleywood Grapevine! We also received a "Storytelling Chair", which members of TEG had cut from a felled tree at Parklands Farm. Thank you to Mrs Willett for the tree trunk, and for transporting the very heavy seat to its new location in our "forest"!



Look out for a Forest Schools display in our Entrance hall before the end of term!

With only just 2 weeks to go until the end of term we would like to remind you of the following events:

Tuesday 7th and Tuesday 14th July Children spend the afternoon with their new class

Thursday 9th July Open Evening 4:30-6pm
Whole families welcome to visit your child's class, look at work in books and as part of classroom displays, talk to the teacher and for children in FS and Yr1 go to visit your child's new class teacher!

Moving on disco **Friday 10th July** 5-7pm Tickets from the school office.

Children's choice special lunch on **Thursday 16th July**- please return slip to order this dinner

Summer Fair, joint event with St Michael's,
Friday 17th July 3:30-7pm

Yr2 Leavers' Assembly **Tuesday 21st July at 10am**, families of Yr2 children very welcome.

Tuesday 21st July is the last day of the summer term for children.

Wednesday 22nd July is a training day. Term starts for all children on **Monday 7th September**.

Lost Property

If you think your child has lost any items please check the classrooms, lunchbox trolleys and office again this week. On Friday 10th we will be gathering up un-named items and putting our extensive collection of lost property in the playground on July 13th, 14th and 15th in the hope that some pieces are recognised! It will be outside until 6pm to enable parents who collect from YMCA to claim items too.

Parking

We continue to be very concerned about thoughtless, dangerous and illegal parking along Barnard Road before and after school. The matter was discussed by our Governing Body last week, who are aware of two incidents outside Chelmsford schools in which children were injured by cars. The school gateway must never be used to drop off/ pick up as this is a crossing point between our school and St Michael's. We will be launching new initiatives in the autumn term to raise awareness of dangerous practice such as double parking, parking or waiting on the lines and pulling onto the pavement. Please walk to school with your child if you possibly can, and if you have no alternative, please park in a safe, thoughtful and legal way, even if this means the car is 3 minutes walk from the school. Thank you.

Wimbledon

This year, for the first time, Jane Gowers, our short tennis coach, applied for tickets to Wimbledon in the schools ballot. Mrs Gowers and Mrs Shiels are accompanying some Yr2 children from our tennis club to visit Wimbledon and watch tennis on No1 and No2 court! Mrs Willett from Parklands Farm, who is a keen tennis player, is also travelling with the group. We hope they have a wonderful day and will write a report for Friday's newsletter!

Summer holiday reading

Today in assembly the children found out about the Summer Reading Challenge for 2015 with a theme of Record Breakers. It starts this Saturday 11th July and runs throughout the summer until Saturday 5th September. It is free and only takes a little of your time to join the library if you are not already a member, visit with your child and enable them to collect stickers and rewards for improving their reading skills.

It would be amazing to present certificates to every single child in September!