

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February

Dear Parents,



### **Essex Teaching Awards**

A group of 10 staff were invited to the Essex Teaching Awards on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February at Anglia Ruskin University. We were nominated by a parent as School Team of the Year and were delighted when the whole school team were judged to be runners up and receive the Highly Commended award. Visiting teachers and new parents often comment on the very strong team ethos at Galleywood and it is lovely to have that recognised. Well done to everyone!

### **Concert**

The Cirrus Sextet played a wonderful programme on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January, including music by Richard Strauss, Mozart, Schubert and Brahms. Proceeds from the concert have enabled us to buy a set of glockenspiels for class music lessons, which every child will have the benefit of playing.

### **Reminder**

Our school grounds are a smoke free zone for the benefit of all children and staff. Parents and carers wishing to smoke before or after dropping their children to school are asked not to stand close to the school gates as this means everyone has to walk through cigarette smoke. Thank you.

### **Learning Stars**

Miss Williams has been talking to children about the Learning Stars and we know that they are having a big impact on children's motivation in school. We would very much like to have your feedback on the paper questionnaire. Any comments will help us to develop this new initiative so that children grow to become more resilient and independent in their learning.

### **Reading Support**

We know that it is not always easy getting children to read at home and to spend time learning key sight words. Louise Manning and Charmi Ohrland are available on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the school library to support parents, talk about

different strategies and model some of the approaches we might use in the classroom. If this would be helpful no appointment is needed, just pop into the library from 8:45am. All year groups welcome.

### **Governor Visits**

The Governors of our school visit regularly to keep in touch with all aspects of school life. Alison Griffiths works in Yr2 classes every week, checking children's progress towards their next maths challenges. Andy Beales visited in mid January and Jennie Ayres visited with a focus on writing last week. Andy and Jennie spent time in every classroom, spoke to adults and children and looked at work in a range of books. Sarah Curtis has been working with Anna Cooper, SENCo, to write a new policy for Special Educational Needs, which reflects the many changes from September 2014; this will soon be added to our website. Alan Pamphilon is working with Mr Foreman to improve parking on the school site and ensure there is always immediate access for emergency vehicles to both the infant and junior school buildings. He and Barry carried out a site inspection today and were pleased that the evacuation time for our fire drill has improved since November. Rob Peters was keen to see a Forest Schools session last week and enjoyed collecting colours with Rabbits class, then helping them to mix paint shades to match the colours they had found. It was a very muddy experience but thoroughly enjoyed by adults and children. The Governors and Early Years staff recently posted a survey to gather the views of parents from Foxes and Badgers classes. See outcomes, attached.

### **Maths Challenges**

In Year 2 and in the summer term of Year 1 children have the opportunity to work towards a series of maths challenges to develop speedy recall of key number facts. The children enjoy seeing their success and are not always very patient about demonstrating their new skills! We would welcome offers of help for 1hr a week, ideally 9-10am, to check maths facts and help children progress in their mental maths. Please speak to Mrs Tindall if you could offer this on a regular basis. Thank you.