



**9<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

Dear Parents

### **Cirrus Concert**

We are very excited to welcome 7 outstanding classical musicians to our school for a concert on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm. Some of you will know Sue Loze, who has performed pieces on the violin for our children on several occasions. Her son Louis attended our school and St Michael's. Sue is part of a strings group called Cirrus Sextet. The concert is very much aimed at families and we would encourage parents and grandparents with an interest in music to bring their children. Tickets will be available from the school office from Monday. Look out for the flyer next week for details of the musical programme and please pass the information to anyone you know who might be interested. It will be an amazing event!

### **Christmas Fair- final total**

GIPA are delighted to announce the final total for our Frozen Christmas Fair, which raised a fantastic £1,600 for our school. This is a great achievement and reflects a lot of hard work, both in preparing for the event and on the night– well done, everyone! Don't miss the New Year Party next Friday evening when children will be entertained with musical games, competitions and magic! Tickets £3.50 from the office now.

### **Staffing**

We were sorry to say Goodbye to Mrs Anita Cockrell in December after 7 years working at Galleywood as a TA and Higher Level TA. Anita is taking a very different role, working within her husband's property business. Anita will continue to be clerk to both Governor committees and we are delighted she is maintaining this link with the school.

We are pleased to welcome two new members of staff this term; Mrs Wright and Mrs Islam will be working in 1-1 support roles with different children. Miss Edwards has extended her hours from January and will be working in Foxes class every afternoon.

### **Assemblies**

Year 1 and Year 2 classes will be leading class assemblies this term as follows:

Rabbits 23<sup>rd</sup> January

Squirrels 30<sup>th</sup> January

Hedgehogs 6<sup>th</sup> February

Owls 13<sup>th</sup> February

Assemblies start promptly at 10:15 so please arrive by 10:10. You are invited to stay afterwards for tea or coffee whilst the children have squash and biscuits! Friends and family visitors including younger brothers and sisters are very welcome.

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, the last day of the spring term, we will present a performance of The Little Muncher. As this is the Yr2 Music Festival presentation children in Yr2 will take the main speaking, acting and dancing roles whilst children in Owls and Hedgehogs sing the songs. This is always great fun- make a note of the date and start time of 10am.

### **Parking**

Parking continues to cause problems before and after school. If it is essential for you to drive to school please park safely and legally avoiding pavements, driveways and the yellow zigzag lines. As the weather warms up we hope most children will take a healthy walk, cycle or scoot to school and arrive wide awake and ready to learn! Don't forget there are a

number of places you can park to avoid the congestion of Barnard Road, a little further away but enabling your child to enjoy a short walk to school.

### **School Attendance**

64 children received special stickers for 100% attendance last term- equivalent to more than two whole classes and definitely a record! Our whole school attendance target is 96% and we monitor individual attendance closely with the aim that most children achieve 95%+ attendance across the year unless there is a prolonged period of illness. We have seen a drop in term time holidays enabling children and teachers to maintain the momentum in learning and secure the best possible progress for your child. We would like to remind you that school term dates up to July 2016 are available on the school website to help you plan family events.

### **Playground safety**

Many children are proud of the new bikes and scooters they received for Christmas! Whilst we are delighted to offer the playground as a place where children can play in a traffic free space parents are respectfully reminded that they are responsible for supervising children before and after school. We would be reluctant to stop active cycling and scooting after school but adults need to be vigilant and ensure children are aware of others.

### **Changes to benefits**

We wrote to you last term about your child's eligibility to receive Pupil Premium funding. If you think your circumstances have changed and you are currently receiving benefits that might enable us to make a claim on your behalf, please speak to a member of the office staff.

We would like to remind everyone that the last day for application for admission to school in Sept 2015 is Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Emergency School Closure**

In the case of severe weather parents can now check online to see if the school has closed, at: [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk)

Click on A-Z at the top of the page, select S then select School Closure (emergency). You will find a list of schools which have closed.

Please note we will always do our utmost to remain open.