

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents,

### Welcome

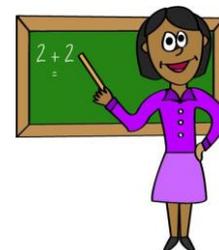
We are delighted to welcome **Mrs Faye Dennis** as our Finance and Office Manager. Faye has worked previously at Bicnacre Primary School as a teaching assistant, and for the last 6 years at Notley High School in Braintree, where she was a finance officer. Mrs Dennis has spent time training with Mrs Fraser and will be working in our school office every day, alongside Mrs Gray, Mrs Reed and Mrs Brailsford. Mrs Dennis is keen to get to know all our children and parents- do come and say hello if you see her out on the playground in the morning! We hope she will be very happy as part of the Galleywood team.

Congratulations to Angela and Dan Hornsby on the safe arrival of Andrew Michael Hornsby (Drew) on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Drew weighed 8lb 5oz. He visited us in school at lunchtime today and is very beautiful!



### Meet the Teacher

It was lovely to see so many parents attending our Meet the Teacher sessions on Thursday. Our topic plans are always available on our school website so that we can share our learning themes. The teachers in Year 1 and Year 2 gave demonstrations of the online learning platforms we subscribe to, reminding parents that login details for Bug Club, Espresso and Purple Mash can be found in your child's reading record book. Please let us know if you need any support with online learning; families without access to computers or ipads are very welcome to use the computer suite after school- please ask your child's teacher.



### After school clubs

Letters went out on Friday for the teacher led after school clubs for children in Yr1 and Yr2. Teachers have explained in Friday's assembly what the children can expect at each club to help them choose 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice. We try to vary the clubs a little each term to enable children to have new and different experiences. Clubs that are oversubscribed will be offered again in the Spring or Summer term 2019.

### Flying Start

Mary Huntingdon ran two successful workshops for parents last term: Support your child with Reading, followed by Understanding your child's behaviour. Parents gained a lot from these sessions and I am very pleased that Mary has agreed to lead two more

courses this term. The first is called "Flying Start" for parents of children in the Foundation Stage year. If you have a child in Foxes class or Badgers class and would like to make sure they make a flying start to learning, come along on Thursday at 9:15am to our demountable classroom for coffee and the chance to hear about successful strategies for early learning. Your child will be able to join you for some shared activities during part of the morning.

Mary will be running a maths course here in November- further details very soon!

### **Governors**

On Monday we held our first Governing Body meeting for this school year. We are delighted that June Gould has been elected as Chair of Governors and Andy Beales as Vice Chair. We welcomed Richard Holmes as a new co-opted Governor for our school. Richard has two children at our school, Sam in Yr2 and Adeline in Foundation Stage.



There will be vacancies for two parent Governors in November 2018 when Lisa Bone and Chris Fawcett end their terms of office. If you would like to be involved with the strategic work of our school I would be delighted to explain a little more about the work our Governors do, the role, time commitment, etc. Please speak to me on the playground and I can book a time to meet with you.

### **Harvest Project**

Today the children heard about our Harvest Project for 2018. Recently we have been trying to support local projects at this time of year, collecting food and other items for CHESS in 2016 and for the Chelmsford Food Bank in 2017. This year we are supporting another local initiative to help homeless people in Essex and East London. **Cool to be Kind** is a Chelmsford Community Based Project to support rough sleepers.

The aim is to provide help and support to rough sleepers in the South East. Volunteers offer help and support via outreach teams, distributing food and clothing twice a week and offering friendship and regular contact.

Over the last 3 years, with the amazing kindness and generosity of both individuals and local organisations (including local schools, scout groups and many more) they have donated in the region of 1000 rucksacks to rough sleepers in the South East and London.

They began by encouraging people in our community to fill a rucksack with items that would benefit a rough sleeper in the winter months and Cool to be Kind directly distribute them. This has grown so much and they now have a storage facility in

Chelmsford where they store everything that has been kindly donated to them, before redistribution.

Do you have any of the following, either new or in good condition that you no longer need?

- A rucksack with straps
- A sleeping bag
- A fleece or warm coat
- Thick socks
- Gloves and a woolly hat
- A flask

Could you add a couple of these to your shopping, please?

- Tins of soup with ring pull
- Boxes of cereal bars
- Bottles of water
- Packs of cleansing wipes



Please ask family and friends and bring items to the "Rucksack" display in the hall from Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September until Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October. You can also check out "Cool to be Kind Chelmsford" on their website and Facebook page.

I am certain everything we collect will be appreciated during the cold winter months.

Thank you so much for your support.