

Galleywood Infant School
Monday 17th September 2018



Welcome to the new school year! We hope that you all had a great summer.

Children have settled really well into their new classes and the school feels calm with lots of learning happening everywhere. The children look very smart in new uniforms, which help them to feel part of our Galleywood Infant School community. Thank you!

Tuesday and Wednesday last week were training days for our staff. On Tuesday we worked as a staff team to focus on our school improvement priorities for 2018-19 - a summary of these will accompany next week's newsletter. We also had Safeguarding training for all staff linked to the updated Keeping Children Safe in Education. Our school Child Protection Policy has been updated- the Sept 2018 policy is on our school website together with other key policies for reference.

On Wednesday we had an excellent joint training day at Baddow Hall Infant School, working with teachers from the 5 schools in our cluster and focusing on work we are all doing to develop children's reading. We will tell you much more about this exciting project!

We are delighted to welcome Miss Miller to our staff team in Badgers class and to welcome Mrs Wade, Miss Copping and Mrs Teale in slightly different roles this year.

Meet the Teacher

The staff have been working hard both before and during the summer to plan your children's learning for this term. Please come on **Thursday 20th September at 2:30 or 6pm** to our Meet the Teacher sessions to hear about "How big is big.....?" our Key Stage 1 learning theme for this half term. There will be information about homework, PE days, reading and some special events!

Mrs Foster and Miss Mildinhal will explain how we determine starting points for our new Foxes and Badgers. They will talk about how children are learning letters and sounds for reading, spelling and handwriting. All teachers will outline themes for the year and provide information about ways to support learning at home. We hope you can join us.

How Big is Big?

Children in Year 1 and Year2 have been talking about some mysterious events- perhaps they could tell you more about it.....

On Tuesday a strange sack was found outside our school. When we opened it we were very surprised by the items inside....



On Wednesday PC Derek Bailey visited the school, making enquiries in different classrooms. He showed the children photographs of a trail of destruction at the Galleywood Allotments, where they have found some footprints 1.5metres long!

The children are helping to investigate the matter- perhaps the owner of the clothing and the mysterious visitor to the allotments could be the same person? The plot thickens!



Dates for the year

Attached to this letter is a list of key dates for the school year, providing as much notice as possible of special school occasions. Also see the calendar on our school website.

Please note our **Open Mornings** for pre- school children on 18th October & 7th November and pass the dates/ times to any parents who may be applying for places for September 2019. Full details are on our website, as well as dates and times for small group tours.

Child Protection Policy

In line with the revised Government document Keeping Children Safe in Education Sept 18 we have updated our school policy for Child Protection, which is available on our website under News, Policies.

Helpers needed please!

We would love to recruit some more parents or grandparents, who can spare an hour or two one day each week, morning or afternoon. It has made a huge difference to our less confident readers over the last couple of years. Please speak to Miss Williams or Mrs Manning if you are able to help- thank you so much!



For safeguarding reasons all helpers are required to undertake a DBS check, which the school will arrange, and will be provided with a copy of the school's safeguarding protocols.

GIPA dates

It was lovely to see lots of parents at the first GIPA committee meeting this afternoon. There is lots of information on the GIPA Facebook page about forthcoming events. Dates for the diary:

Autumn Party on Friday 19th October from 3:30-5pm

Cushion Clubs on Friday 16th November and on Friday 30th November from 5-6:30pm

Christmas Fair on Friday 7th December from 5-7pm

There will also be events to raise funds for good causes including Macmillan and Children in Need.

If you were unable to make the meeting today but would like to join our parents association and help with planning, organising and running events please speak to Mrs Manning or to the office.

BBC Essex

On Friday we were visited by Jodie Halford, radio presenter for BBC Essex. Jodie was a former pupil at Galleywood Infant School and St Michael's C of E Junior School.



Jodie is excited to be launching her new daily show from 7pm each evening. Jodie brought her microphone and sound equipment so that she could record some voices from our school saying "BBC Essex!" We hope Jodie will visit again soon.

Parking reminder

During drop off and pick up times Barnard Road becomes very congested. For the safety of all the children it is important that parents avoid parking or stopping on the yellow zigzag lines and in the school drive way. The parking area opposite the school is for residents and should not be used for parents bringing or collecting children; please do not use resident parking, block driveways or garages. There are many pathways around the school that link residential roads with Barnard Road. If you need to drive, try and find a safe parking space 5/10 minutes walk from the school and set your child up for a good day's learning with a little fresh air and exercise in the morning!



Guide Dog

You may have noticed Dotty, a trainee guide dog, on the school playground some mornings. As part of preparing Dotty to support a sightless person she needs to 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. Please come and say hello to her - she is always on a lead and needs to meet lots of people in order to do her very important job!



Consideration for others

Recently a few parents have raised concerns about smokers who stand near to the school gates at 3pm. Please move well away from the school gate to allow other parents and young children to come into school without having to walk through the smoke. Thank you.

Whilst the weather is warm enough families are welcome to stay after school to enjoy the pirate ship, trim trail, tree houses and spider climber. Please remember that it is not safe for your child to scoot or cycle on our playground. We remind parents to supervise children closely to ensure your children and others are safe. Thank you.