

Monday 22nd October 2018

Dear Parents

I hope that by now you are all enjoying a sunny start to half term week. School is closed from Monday to Friday this week and will reopen at 8:50am on Monday 29th October.

It has been a very busy 6 ½ weeks since we started back on Thursday 5th September. We have even had our first Open Morning for children starting school in September 2019. If you know of somebody who would be interested in a place at Galleywood next autumn please let them know about our 2nd Open Morning on **Wednesday 7th November from 9:30-11:30am**. There are full details on our school website.

How Big is Big?

Children in Yr1 and Yr2 have done some wonderful work linked to traditional stories, which they enjoyed sharing with over 100 visitors at our Big, Big Celebration on 12th October. The children enjoyed a wonderful walk to the Parklands Farm on Wednesday 10th October- thank you to all the parents and grandparents who accompanied this walk. We are always very grateful to Christy Willett at Parklands, who took time out during the very busy cultivation period to show children how different pieces of machinery contribute to the process of preparing the ground, sowing seeds, growing and harvesting wheat.



Autumn Term 2



Our new learning theme from October- December for all classes is **Heroes and Villains**. There will be many traditional stories being told, retold, acted and written throughout the school. To launch the historical learning in Year 1 and Year 2 we have an exciting workshop led by History Off the Page on 30th and 31st October. Children will be involved in many tasks which would have been part of daily life in London in September 1666. Running through the day will be information and updates about the terrible Great Fire of London, which started at a baker’s shop in Pudding Lane in the early hours of the morning. Thank you if you have offered to help- the day starts with a briefing for helpers so that we all know exactly what to do!



Thank you for your generous contributions to our Cool to be Kind collection. The donations will be collected in an assembly at the end of the day on 29th October so there is still time to bring some cereal bars, bottles of water, wipes, or one of the items shown below.

THE RUCKSACK PROJECT



a rucksack with shoulder straps

a few pairs of socks



a pair of gloves



a couple of pairs of clean undies



a fleece or warm coat

a warm wooly hat



cans with ringpulls!



a spoon for soup



a flask of hot soup



a clean sleeping bag

GIPA news

The Autumn Party on Friday afternoon was a great success- thank you to the parents who advertised and sold the tickets, set up the hall, prepared and served refreshments to the children, supervised to keep children safe and then cleared up.

GIPA, Galleywood Infant Parents Association, was established soon after our school opened and is where many long standing friendships in the village were originally formed!

Every parent is automatically a member of GIPA; we always invite you to take part in events by coming along, and also, if you are able to, by helping in the planning and organisation that goes on behind the scenes.

GIPA raises very important funds for our school and over the years has provided the spider climber, pirate ship, trim trail, tree house and playground houses as well as our hall projection system and reading corners for each classroom. The next big project is our Multi Use Games Area, a mini Astroturf pitch which we can use in a wide variety of ways throughout the year.

If you would like to be part of the GIPA committee please come to a meeting at **2pm on Monday 29th October**, when we will start to plan the next big event, our Christmas Fair. There are many roles, including Publicity Organiser, Refreshments Co-ordinator, Treasurer and Secretary which could be held by one volunteer or shared between two or three people for different events. If you are not able to come on 29th October but would like to receive a copy of the minutes and offer one off help at forthcoming events please email admin@galleywood.essex.sch.uk with GIPA in the subject line and we will ensure you are included in the mailing list. Thank you.

Meetings with class teachers

We hope you found the parent consultations helpful this week. If there are any points you would like to follow up with teachers or other members of staff you are welcome to book a meeting or phone call after school any day: make an appointment with your child's teacher, or via the school office. You can speak to any member of the staff team for a minute or two first thing in the morning but this is not the time for a long conversation- we are anxious to get going with our learning promptly at 9am. Thank you.

Poppies

The school is selling poppies on behalf of the Royal British Legion. The children will have an assembly about Remembrance Day on Thursday 1st November and will be able to buy a poppy from Friday 2nd November, bringing a donation to their classroom first thing in the morning. Adults are very welcome to buy a poppy before or after school via the office.

Half Term activities in libraries across Chelmsford

Tuesday 24th Oct 10am-12noon	Kids Creepy Crafts @ Chelmsford Library
Tuesday 24th Oct 10.30am-12noon	Under the Sea session @ North Melbourne Library
Wednesday 25th Oct 10am-11.30am	Superhero fun session @ Broomfield library
Wednesday 25th Oct 10.30am-12noon	Dinosaur Fun @ Writtle library
Thursday 25th Oct 11am-12.30pm	Monster Mash Sensory story time @ Galleywood Library
Friday 26th Oct 10.30am-12noon	Spooky story time @ South Woodham Ferrers Library
Friday 26th Oct 10-11am	Josie Dom's Monster story time @ Chelmsford Library

All of these events are run by the library teams and you can find more information about their events at <https://Libraries.essex.gov.uk/events>

Chelmsford Museum- Hocus Pocus exhibition

22nd-26th October 2018

Free – 10am-5pm

Find out at our free exhibition to discover the history behind the mystery this October half term. Get the kids in their spookiest costumes and come down to the museum to explore the dark history of the Essex witch trials, find out how witches became associated with Halloween, and how people identified so-called witches. You will separate the fact from the fiction using our taxidermy displays, spooky objects from our collection, fun interactive dress-up and a display of witchcraft in popular culture.

There will also be a reading corner with books such as Harry Potter, Room on the Broom, The Chronicles of Narnia and more!

<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/museums/whats-on/hocus-pocus-exhibition/>

Wild Wednesday @ Danbury Country Park

24th October 2018 11am -2pm

Free (cost to park car)

All ages welcome, but most popular with 2-12 year olds

Wild Wednesday is regular free children's fun, making the most of what nature has to offer.

Families can enjoy Danbury Country Park by making dens and mud pies, wading in the stream, splashing in puddles, kicking leaves, forest craft...every day is different and there's always something new to stimulate the imagination and build an appreciation for the outdoors.

<http://www.visitparks.co.uk/events/wild-wednesday/>