



Galleywood Infant School

Thursday 20th February

Dear Parents / Carers,

What an incredibly busy week! I think we welcomed almost 250 visitors into school last week for pizza restaurants and our breakfast café, for Foundation Stage parent consultations. Thank you for the lovely comments on Tapestry, during the events and people who have caught me on the playground to say thank you. We do have an amazing and hard-working staff team who definitely “always go the extra mile” as one parent commented.

There has been so much cooking this half term, with children learning the skills needed to make pizza dough using Italian flour, combining ingredients to make various dips, tasting porridge made with milk and water, baking muffins and watching them rise, seeing at first hand the effects of orange squash on egg shells, and much, much more. We have loved hearing about all the cooking and tasting that has been going on at home with some children inspired to try something new!



I would like to add my thanks to everyone, including the children for their never ending enthusiasm to learn, families for juggling work and other commitments to always support us, to the office team for sourcing a very wide range of items on our shopping list, and to Lesley, Sharon and Suzie in our kitchen, who have been cheerful and supportive, lending equipment, giving advice and topping up the things we ran out of! The pizza cafes would not have run without the energy and commitment of everyone, with teachers and TAs supporting one another and generally working right through every lunchtime and beyond! It has been a brilliant learning theme, one to revisit in 3 years' time!



Save the dates!

Internet Safety Workshop

On Tuesday 24th March we are inviting parents to a brilliantly informative workshop led by The Two Johns, John Woodley and John Staines. They have worked for many years teaching children and families how to keep themselves safe from the online world. Technology moves on at a rapid pace and, whilst there are ever more ways for children to have fun online, it is hard to keep up with potential dangers. Please join us for this session, which is being held jointly with St Michael's Junior School from 7-9pm.

Pirates and Mermaids

On the last day of the spring term at 10am we have a performance of Pirates and Mermaids, a story with songs and dances that the Year 2 children will perform at the Infant Music Festival on Tuesday 17th March. On Friday 3rd April Year 2 children will perform Pirates and Mermaids for us all, and Year 1 classes will sing the songs. All visitors welcome for this event.

Midday Assistant Vacancy

We have vacancies for two Midday Assistants to join our team. Midday assistants work from 11:50am -1:20pm each day, helping children with their lunch and supervising outdoor playtime. Training, including first aid training, will be available for successful candidates. If you are interested in the posts please email the school office admin@galleywood.essex.sch.uk or pop in to collect a pack and application form.

GIPA events

A very big thank you to GIPA for organising the Valentines party. Children were entertained with dancing and party games in the hall, and also enjoyed making cards and decorations in the library to celebrate Valentine's Day. Over 130 tickets were sold, which is a brilliant response! Thank you for supporting these events.

The next event is a film night on 28th February from 5:30-7pm. Tickets will be on sale from Tuesday 25th February in the school hall, and from the office at the end of the day.

I hope you have booked baby-sitters for GIPA's bingo night on 13th March - details about tickets to follow soon. The next GIPA committee meeting is on Wednesday 26th Feb at The Eagle - all welcome.

School Council Spring Half Term Report

Ronnie, David, Amaya, Oliver, Millie, Joshua, Isabella,

Henry, Edmund, Promise, Sydney and Harrison

This half term we have been thinking about our school lunchtimes. We discovered that most children in our school like to have school dinners, which Mrs Bond was very pleased to hear! They especially like the range of healthy foods at lunchtime, and said that playtime healthy snacks help give them lots of energy to play and learn.

We have enjoyed inviting visitors to our meetings to ask them questions about lunchtimes. We have interviewed Mrs Diebelius, Mrs Needham, Mrs Gray and Mrs Dennis!

We have been thinking about ways to improve our lunchtimes with more play equipment, an outdoor reading area and better recycling. After Half Term each class will have a day they are responsible for lunchtime recycling. The teachers will choose Recycling Ambassadors to help, who will wear special badges designed by the School Council!

Look out for posters around the school to see how you can help with recycling, and remember to check our School Council noticeboard by the office for all our news.

Just a reminder that Monday 24th February is a staff training day

School re-opens at 8:50am on Tuesday 25th February