

Galleywood Infant School

Friday 16th April 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school for the summer term. We hope you enjoyed a lovely Easter break with the promise of spring and the chance once again to see family and friends out of doors.

We are delighted to report that our new library was fitted on Friday. Although there are no books on the shelves yet (lots in boxes and some still to be ordered) it feels a very exciting space and somewhere we know your children will love to be.



To launch our new library we have invited Mike Dodsworth, storyteller, to spend the day in school next Thursday. Every class will have a storytelling session in our new library, and from 26th April there will be set times for each class to visit our new library. As soon as the guidance permits, we will arrange a time for families to visit too!

We are very aware that without the continued hard work and commitment of the GIPA team our new library, as well as the mini Astroturf pitch which is being installed next week, would not be possible. School budgets are so tight that the funds raised through events and activities have never been more important to schools. We work very closely with GIPA to choose projects that will make a real difference to our children, open up new opportunities and leave a legacy for children who will come to Galleywood in future years.

Thank you to everyone who contributed by organising and/or participating in our Readathon, Decorated Spoon competition, Easter egg trail and Easter raffle. The total from these events was an amazing **£2,259**.

This is absolutely incredible, enabling us to complete the library project and launch a new target: to replace our very much-loved pirate ship. This was installed in 2008 and has been enjoyed by children of all ages for 12 years; it was repaired and repainted at least twice by Mr Foreman and others, but had sadly deteriorated and become unsafe. We shall be talking to the children, looking at potential designs and making exciting plans!



Parent Consultations

As our spring term parent consultations were not able to take place, these are scheduled for **Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th April between 3:30-6pm**. On Monday 19th April parents and carers will receive an email inviting you to select the day and half hour time slots that are convenient for you, whether you choose a face to face meeting and opportunity to see you child's work, or prefer a phone call at a pre-booked time.

Teachers will aim to confirm a 10 minute consultation time with all parents by Thursday of next week, with the opportunity to look at your child's work either before or after speaking to the teacher. Face to face consultations will take place in classrooms with parents accessing the classroom via the outside door.

Term dates 2021-2022

To enable families to plan holidays and breaks for the 2021-2022 academic year we have added our 5 non-pupil days to the Essex term dates. These dates were set jointly with St Michael's C of E Junior School. An updated version of the term and holiday dates is attached for reference and will be posted on our website.

Summer Term Learning

The learning for this term continues our theme One World, Many Colours. Learning plans for Yellow have been emailed out this week and posted onto our website. On Tuesday all children in Year 1 and Year 2 will be walking to Parklands Farm to see the lambs born this spring, walk through a spinney and over a timber bridge to plant some sunflower seeds. As we will be walking along farm tracks and digging in the field, please ensure your child has wellies, or trainers that may get a little muddy. Thank you.



We hope to visit later in the term to see the sunflower crop growing. Foxes and Badgers are planning to visit Parklands Farm for Forest Schools later this term.

Online Safety

We would like to remind everyone about the **2 Johns online safety training** on Monday evening at 8pm. We will resend the Zoom link on Monday and urge parents to join this session if at all possible.

Class Photographs

Kittle Photographic will be coming on Tuesday 27th April to take class photographs.

The Sustrans Big Pedal

Mrs Sayers sent an email on Friday- just a reminder that we will be collecting information about your child's journey to school between Monday 19th and Friday 30th April. This event is held annually and sometimes termly to encourage families to walk, scoot or cycle, which has the double benefit of easing congestion in Barnard Road whilst enabling children to enjoy fresh air and exercise on the way to and from school. If you need to travel by car, please do consider finding a new parking place in one of the roads away from our school so that your child can walk or scoot for part of the journey. It may be a good opportunity to teach road safety, crossing Barnard Road with our school crossing patrol person.

We look forward to seeing even more bikes and scooters than usual next week!

