

Galleywood Infant School



Wednesday 5th May

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see so many people attending our parent consultation appointments last week. Fortunately, the weather was dry and sunny, though not always warm, enabling you to see the progress your child has been making in their work. If you opted for a Teams or phone conversation and would like to view books after school one day, please speak to your child's teacher.

We hope you found the sessions helpful. As many of you know we are working extremely hard with whole class, group, paired and 1:1 teaching, to ensure that despite school closures, children will have the skills and knowledge they need to move to the next year group this summer. I am very grateful to all our staff for the extra sessions they are fitting into the day, and to Mrs Needham, Mrs Ray, Mrs Sinnott and Mrs Wade who are working additional hours to support children with aspects of English and maths. Please help your child by supporting them to complete home learning and reinforce the work they are doing in class and in small groups, and ensure that children are all in school and ready to learn by 9am at the latest. Thank you.

All parents will receive their child's annual report on Friday 2nd July, after which there will be another opportunity to sit with your child and celebrate all the work they have done this year.

Polling Station

Tomorrow, Thursday 6th May, will be the Essex County Council election, and also an election for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, which was postponed from May 2020. To avoid any school closures, we use our demountable classroom as a polling station, with voters accessing the school via the double gates. A large quantity of temporary Heras fencing has been delivered, enabling us to fence the demountable classrooms off completely for the day. Mr Tee will be on site from 6:30am when the polling station opens and staff will be on duty in the playground whenever children are playing outside. On previous occasions when polling has been taking place, good weather has enabled the children to play well away from the demountables on our school field.

On Thursday the YMCA wrap around club will operate from our school hall.

There will be some additional congestion as our one-way system will not be able to operate on Thursday; families will arrive and leave through the gates near the cycle shelters. We will do our best to keep things moving smoothly- thank you in advance for your patience.

Summer term dates

We are of course very keen to hold some of the events we usually plan during the summer term. If restrictions are lifted as we hope on 21st June, we have planned some educational visits for the summer term linked to our whole school learning theme. We are hoping to be able to hold our Children's Challenge sports event on Thursday 1st July from 1:15pm, to which families are invited. More details of these and some provisional GIPA events to follow next week.

The Multi-use games area is on track to be completed this week by Friday 7th May- I know lots of children and families have been watching the progress of this project with great excitement! We can't wait to use it.



Visits and Visitors

We had a wonderful morning at Parklands Farm on 20th April, when children in Yr1 and Yr2 visited last year's sunflower crop and planted some sunflower seeds into ground that Mrs Willett had dug over for us. The children enjoyed jumping on the soil to cover their seeds; we hope the rainfall this weekend will encourage the seeds to grow!



We also saw the sheep and lambs, now grazing in the fields behind Parklands Farm. Mrs Willett allowed some of us to hold some lambs so that the children could get a closer view and feel the lambs soft fleece. Families in Galleywood are so fortunate to have easy access to a number of public footpaths and it was good to hear from so many of the children that they have been enjoying outdoor walks and were familiar with the footpath, bridge and bridleway we followed. Please remember to keep dogs on leads near the sheep- even the best-behaved dog can sometimes follow an instinct and chase sheep, causing dreadful consequences.

Next week we will be welcoming a beekeeper to school, who will talk to every class about what happens inside a beehive and the crucial role honey bees play in our gardens.



Storytelling visit

Every class had a wonderful storytelling session in our new library on 22nd April, listening to Mike Dodsworth. Our thanks to GIPA for funding this and to Mrs Needham for co-ordinating the day. Mike has a huge repertoire of stories, and both children and staff have requested a follow up visit next year.

As promised classes are having opportunities to spend time browsing and sharing new books in our new library! We have rugs and cushions still to come when Covid19 guidance permits us to add soft furnishings.



Class Photographs

We were so pleased to have a sunny day for our class photos last Tuesday so that these could be taken outdoors. A proof card will be coming home with your children today or tomorrow and parents can place orders online using the code provided on the proof.