

Galleywood Infant School

Monday 4th October 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

Covid-19

The Covid19 virus has definitely not gone away! We continue to be highly vigilant and follow our school risk assessment and the Essex guidelines where any child or member of staff presents with any of the symptoms of Covid. Free lateral flow tests are available from pharmacies to help identify possible Covid infection; a positive lateral flow result should be followed up by an immediate PCR test.

If a child or member of staff in school receives a positive PCR test, this is the procedure we are asked to follow:

- For primary aged pupils, you will receive a letter to encourage a whole class to seek a PCR test should a member of the class, adult or child, test positive. This does not replace the test and trace process but enables more pupils to have a PCR test more quickly.
- We will only ask a class to seek a PCR test once a week. If a second child in the class tests positive in the same week the letter will not be sent out again.
- Parents are encouraged to book their tests online and to select the option 'I've been told to get a test by my local council, health protection team or healthcare professional'

There seem to be a lot of colds, chest infections, tonsillitis and even chicken pox around now that children are mixing in a range of activities both in and out of school. The ventilation, extra cleaning and hand washing we have in place will help control all of these. We hope you and your children stay well!

Classroom Phonics Session – Yr 1 & Yr 2

We look forward to seeing as many parents/ grandparents as possible on **Wednesday from 9-9:30am** to join your child for a phonics and reading lesson. We hope it will be helpful and informative to see how phonics is taught by the teachers in Yr1 and Yr2. Younger siblings can attend if this enables you to join us, but the session is a lesson so please do not allow little ones to be noisy and disturb the learning. Thank you. We will offer Foxes and Badgers the same opportunity later in the term, and will be explaining more about daily phonics at the **Curriculum and Coffee meeting** tomorrow, **Tuesday 5th October**.

Phonics
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Open Mornings

St Michael's are holding an open morning on Wednesday 6th October from 9:30-11:30am for the parents of children currently in yr 2, moving into in Yr3 next September. You will be able to meet Mrs Prigg, Headteacher and have a tour of the school with the opportunity to ask questions.



Galleywood Infant School have two open mornings for parents of children due to start school in September 2022. These will be on Tuesday 12th October and Thursday 18th November, both sessions from 9:30-11am. We are also offering a series of one-hour small group tours, which need to be booked. Full details of dates and times on our website. Please let friends and family know if they are seeking a school place; applications open on 8th November 2021 and close on 15th January 2022.

For further details see: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions-to-essex-schools-for-the-next-school-year>

PSHE and RHE

We want all children to grow up healthy, happy, safe, and able to manage the challenges and opportunities of modern Britain. That is why, from September this year the government have made it a statutory requirement that all primary age children will be taught Relationships and Health Education as part of the PSHE curriculum. In conjunction with our governing body we have reviewed our PSHE policy, adapted it and would now like to share it with parents and carers.

We have decided to follow the SCARF PSHE scheme published by Coram Education as this closely links to what we have been teaching previously but also ensures we fulfil our new statutory requirements for delivering Relationships and Health Education. We have attached the teaching sequence across the year for your information. There are very few changes to our policy or the curriculum we are delivering to our EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 children. The 6-unit titles are the same for each year group; the children are then able to benefit from revisiting each theme across their three years at GIS at a deeper level, enabling them to build on previous learning.



We would welcome any questions or comments on our policy and teaching programme as we take it forward into this school year.

Parking

Barnard Road has always been congested at drop off and pick up times, but we have received reports of two near accidents this term involving cars and young children. If you need to park near to the school, please remember that you must not park on a dropped kerb - these allow wheel-chair users as well as people with buggies and prams to cross the side access roads and any attempt by them to dismount a higher kerb could result in an accident.

Please avoid parking in the residents' parking bays along Barnard Road; even if you are only popping to school for a few minutes, parked cars have prevented residents from being able to get out for urgent reasons such as hospital appointments.

Your children will enjoy a slightly longer walk to school, or the chance to use a scooter, if you plan to park a little further from the school, perhaps on a friend's driveway or in a residential road with footpath access to Barnard Road. I know a number of people are already doing this - thank you.

GIPA Committee

We had a fantastic first committee meeting on Tuesday 14th September, with more than 20 parents offering their support and ideas to ensure this year is full of exciting and varied events for your children. We continue to fundraise towards a new pirate ship and would like this to be a fabulous legacy that can be enjoyed by even more children than our previous ship, installed in 2008. I have approached 2 companies to provide quotes as we would very much like to have a target board and celebrate the steps towards this, as we did with our recently refurbished library.

Last Wednesday your child brought home a tube of Smarties, with a short letter explaining how we would like the tube, once empty, to be gradually filled with coins and returned to school during the week before half term. Thank you for your support with this to start our 2021-2022 fundraising!



GIPA are collecting donations of sweets to go into the trail bags, which will be on sale from 18th October. If you have some lollies, mini treat bags or other wrapped sweets please bring them to the office. Thank you.

Winter Coats

The weather seems to have changed and although some days are bright and sunny, it is in fact quite chilly! Our Midday team have asked us to remind parents that children need to have a named coat in school each day. Thank you for providing named wellies, which will make sure children can play outside on the grassy areas whatever the weather.