

## Galleywood Infant School

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

### Jon Tee

So many of you have asked me how Jon Tee, our site manager, is doing. Jon has been unwell for a few weeks now, but last Wednesday he moved from Queens Hospital in Romford to his parents' home near Brentwood. I was able to visit him on Sunday with some cards and letters from the children, which cheered him up enormously and made him smile. He enjoyed reading their messages and laughed at the glittery, sparkly cards which could only have come from an infant school!

He remains poorly and under the care of the hospital, so will sadly not be back with us for some time. Jon always says in his messages how much he misses everyone at both schools and asked me to say hello and give his best wishes to the children, families and whole school community. I know we all echo these wishes to Jon.

### Governing Body

Our school is fortunate to have a very supportive Governing Body who take an active interest in all aspects of school life. Some of our governors are parents with children at our school, some have older children who have been taught by us and have now moved on, and some are co-opted governors who bring particular skills or interests to our school from the community, for example from business, education and local government. Governors serve for a term of 3 or 4 years, and often volunteer to serve beyond this for a further term if personal and family commitments allow.

All our governors share in common a passion and dedication to ensure that every child at Galleywood Infant School reaches the highest levels of achievement and personal development.

We are sad to say goodbye to two members of our governing board:

**Matt Lewis** has served our school for 8 years, during and after the period when his two sons attended our school. Matt brought very valuable skills and expertise relating to safeguarding and child protection as well as children in care. He was experienced in his governor role, having served at another local school before 2013.

**Komel Bajwe** has served as a governor for 6 years, sharing her knowledge of HR, business, risk assessment and critical incident management to support the leadership team in many situations. Komel supported and challenged us through the process of Covid19 Risk Assessment.

Both have brought wisdom, a deeply caring approach and good humour to the role. We shall miss their contributions to our meetings and hope they will both continue to be friends of our school for many years. Thank you, Komel and Matt.

We welcome **Nazia Hussein** as a new parent governor. Nazia has a son in Yr2 and a daughter in Foundation Stage. Nazia has already attended a couple of meetings this term and we look forward to welcoming her for some focus classroom visits in the near future.

### What do parents and children think about Galleywood Infant School?

In the summer term we always ask for your views about the things we do well, and any aspect of Galleywood Infant School you would like us to improve. This year we also asked all the children for their views, and I compiled responses from all questionnaires into a document which we have shared with our staff team and with governors- attached to the newsletter.



You will note that it was my firm intention to get a newsletter out every Monday- some weeks, especially when staff are absent, this has not been possible, but a weekly letter every Monday (or occasionally Tuesday .....) is the aim.

Thank you to everyone who made the effort to return the questionnaires, either in paper form or electronically. We take note of every comment, and your improvement suggestions as well as your lovely compliments are very much appreciated.

### Applications for school places Sept 2022

Online applications opened yesterday 8<sup>th</sup> November for both **pre-school children seeking a Foundation Stage** school place next September, and **Yr2 children moving into Yr3** next September.

All parents who have a child who will have their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday between 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2022 and 31 August 2023 will need to apply for a school place online using this link: [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions)

The link also applies for parents who have a child in Yr2 at our school. If you wish your child to move to St Michael's Church of England Junior School for Yr3 you are guaranteed to gain a place but you need to complete the application online. (use the link above)

Please speak to us if you need some support with this process- we are happy to help.

We will remind parents again, and the applications remain open until 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### Staff and Governor Photos

I would like to thank Kerry Franklin for another set of lovely photographs in our entrance hall. I think it would be fair to say that most of the staff team (including me!) do all they can to avoid the camera and it took 4 visits to capture everyone. The children love looking at these pictures and spotting the adults in their class team, and the board gives a lovely welcome to our school. Thank you, Kerry.

### Children in Need



In a couple of weeks it will once again be Children in Need day. As usual we will invite children and staff to come in their own choice of clothes on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November** and try to wear something with spots and/or stripes. Following our successful "recovery and return" activities after the spring closure period, we will plan a day of wellbeing activities, including exercise, music and singing, collaborative group and class tasks and some calm, reflection time. We ask children to bring a donation of at least £1, which will go to the Children in Need appeal.

### Harvest Collection

During half term I took all the items donated to the Chelmsford Food Bank on Beehive Lane.

There was more than I could fit into my car, and I needed to make a double journey! The volunteers who helped me to unload the car expressed their gratitude to our school and to everyone who was kind enough to bring some items for this project. Thank you.



### Forest School Area

Last summer it was necessary to fell a large ash tree at the back of our Forest area due to Ash die back disease and ensuring the area was safe for children. Malcolm Stuart and members of The Environmental Group (TEG) who work so hard to help us manage our beautiful school grounds came during half term and planted three whitebeam trees. These are new trees to our school site and once they get established should colour beautifully each autumn.



### Christmas arrangements



We are really hoping that this year we will be able to invite families to a whole school Christmas Nativity Presentation. Dates and times were advertised as part of our diary dates as follows:

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2pm (dress rehearsal with Yr3 from St Michael's invited to watch)

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2pm (families invited, younger siblings can attend)

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2pm (families invited, no younger siblings for this performance)

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 6pm (families invited, children return to school at 5:30, collect 7pm)

All classes take part in all performances, learning songs and dances. Some children will have acting roles or be part of our orchestra. Further details and an the opportunity to order tickets will follow on **22<sup>nd</sup> November**. Initially we offer 2 tickets per family, and as long as we are able to accommodate as many people as usual in our audience, there will be extra tickets available on request.