

## Galleywood Infant School

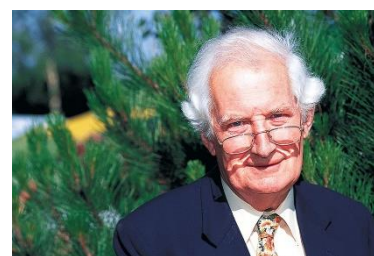
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

At last some beautiful spring weather and some signs of spring around the school!



I was privileged last week to attend the funeral of the wonderful Peter Seabrook, who had been a friend of our school for so many years and sadly passed away in January. Peter was the inspiration behind our vegetable beds and the variety of produce grown in our polytunnel. Each year he encouraged us to enter fruit and vegetables for the horticultural society show, and sometimes took plants or tree seedlings grown by our children to exhibit at the Chelsea Flower Show.



Peter's knowledge and experience were invaluable to us; his energy and enthusiasm, even at the age of 86, were legendary. Peter met weekly with Sue, Andy and Brian, who volunteer every Thursday so that all our children have the opportunity to learn about planting and growing vegetables. You may have read in the national press that Peter had been collecting and planting acorns with our children to provide strong, healthy oak seedlings as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June.

A couple of these trees have been planted in our forest area and Andy Window is arranging for a plaque commemorating Peter Seabrook to be installed next to these special "home grown" trees.

### Wear a hat Day

This year, in memory of Jon Tee and to further raise vital funds to help find a cure for brain tumours our whole school will be supporting Wear a Hat day on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March. I spoke to the children in assembly today and we looked at a whole range of hats, anything goes! You can make a hat or a crown, wear a hat or head band, and make us smile. We will be collecting money in a hat in every classroom! Parents can join us, younger siblings, the more the merrier! Let's see how much we can raise to make a difference.



### Marie Curie Day of Reflection

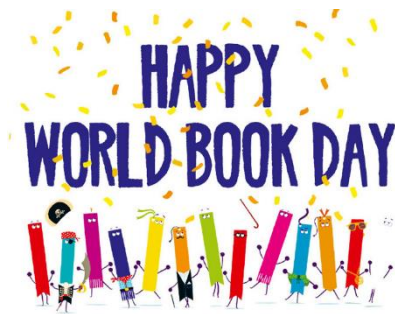
You will have received a message about the Marie Curie daffodil pins available from the office for a donation of £1. Peter Seabrook supplied tete-a-tete daffodil bulbs for all the children to plant linked to the national day of reflection project and some of these are just coming in to bloom.



The National Day of Reflection on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March is to remember 2 years since the start of the first National lockdown to protect against Covid-19. The anniversary is to support the millions of people who have been bereaved during the pandemic and to reflect on the lives of the people we have lost.

## Solar panels

Many parents were concerned this week to see the return of scaffolding around the school, then reassured and delighted to hear that this is not for roof repairs, but for the installation of solar panels. The installation is now complete and the school have a login where staff and classes of children can see at any point in time how much energy we are consuming and what proportion is being generated by the panels. We shall show the children next week. This is a very exciting addition to the school, perfectly timed to follow our roof replacement and the worrying surge in energy prices.



## Book week and library trips

Thank you for your overwhelming support for World Book Day, celebrated here on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March. The costumes were, as always, colourful, varied and inspired! During our World Book Day assembly on Friday morning children were chosen by class teacher to come and unwrap exciting packs of new books, fiction and information books, to be enjoyed in classrooms and then go into our beautiful library. GIPA continue to support the provision of wonderful books for the children, funding a pack of newly released books each month from Just Imagine.

All classes very much enjoyed the story café experience on Friday afternoon with the chance to share favourite books with their friends.

## Book Character Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered the World Book Day competition. The School Council were asked to choose 3 winners from each class and we will display all the entries to celebrate the very wide range of favourite story book characters across the school.

## School Council

The school council meet every Tuesday afternoon and work with Mrs Lacey to make a difference to the environment, both locally and in the wider world. They are continuing to collect crisp packets for recycling and to wash plastic pots from lunchtimes so that these too can be recycled.



They are especially keen to improve areas around our school that have become overgrown, and transform them by planting flowers and vegetables. I know some seeds and bulbs are nearly ready to plant out!

The school council members wrote to me asking for some gardening equipment, including new gloves and watering cans- these are already in use!

A rota for litter picking has been arranged and this week it will be Owls and Hedgehogs working hard at playtime on Wednesday or Thursday to pick up litter using our special litter grabbers, or to pick up twigs and sticks from the grass. Great job, everyone! Well done!







### Easter service

I am very pleased that on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April we will all be walking to St Michael's Church on Galleywood Common for an Easter service led by Rev David Cattle. Parents and carers wishing to join us for the service at 10am are very welcome to walk with us to the church or to meet us there. Classes will leave school from 9:30am. We will share further details and exact times next week.

### Easter events

We have two exciting events happening in school before Easter.

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March a brilliant drama group, M&M Productions, will be coming to present The Secret Garden for our children. All classes will be part of this and the drama is specially adapted for children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1.



This company have worked with us before and we are excited to welcome them back after two years when this has not been possible due to school closures. The quality of the production is always superb with proper sets, lighting, sound effects and fabulous costumes which really hook the children in.

We are asking for a donation of £5 per child towards the cost of the afternoon. There is lots of information on their website about the different shows they have performed in schools across the country- do check it out!

GIPA are planning Peter Rabbit's Easter trail and Peter Rabbit's Easter fitness circuit on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March. Children will bring home a leaflet about this next week. We are hoping for lovely spring weather so that we can use all our outdoor space for the children to follow a trail, hunt for clues and solve puzzles, with the prize of an Easter Egg for every child! This will be our spring term fundraiser and we are asking for a donation of £3 per child towards the cost of prizes and to complete the fundraising for our pirate ship.



Mrs Dennis will set up a link so that parents can pay for these two exciting experiences via Parent Pay, or via the school office with a debit card. We hope that you will support us generously as always so that we can continue to offer exciting additions to our curriculum in this way. Thank you.

### Parent Consultations

Parents of children in Yr1 and Yr2 have been invited to parent consultations next Monday 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. These will take place in the hall, so please come to the main entrance just before your allocated time, when you will be shown into the school hall and be able to look through your child's work. If you wish to bring your child, they will need to sit quietly with a book, drawing paper or quiet toy so that parents and teachers have the opportunity to talk. Thank you.