

Galleywood Infant School

Friday 1st April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We were not expecting snow for our walk to St Michael's Church for the Easter service this morning!

Our thanks to Reverend David and to Ellen for leading a lovely Easter service- it was wonderful to be able to welcome everyone for the service, the first time we have been able to do this since March 2019! Children from Foxes and Badgers made beautiful butterflies and flowers, which decorated the stone pillars and children in Owls and Hedgehogs formed a Palm Sunday procession around the church, waving their palm crosses whilst we sang, "We have a King who rides a donkey."



Thank you to Rachel Maddox for playing the piano for us and to Abbey Wade for teaching our children the Easter songs. Children from Year 2 did a brilliant job of reading parts of the Easter story and reading some Easter prayers. Thank you to everyone who supported us, either accompanying us on our walk to the church or meeting us there.

Commonwealth Games Athletes

We were very pleased yesterday to welcome athletes Jess Tappin and Dan Tudnam to our school. They began their visit by leading an assembly for everyone, explaining that they are training hard and taking part in qualifying competitions, hoping to represent England at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham this summer. Jess told the children about her event, 400m hurdles, and Dan runs 400m. They both train locally at Melbourne athletics track, which some of the children have visited. The children asked brilliant, thoughtful questions both in the assembly and during their class session with Jess and Dan running relay races on the MUGA.

Jess and Dan have set us some competitions, which we will explore with the children in the summer term as the Commonwealth Games approaches.

GIPA Easter treasure hunt

Our Peter Rabbit Easter trail was lots of fun- thank you to Triin Knight, Jo Abbott and members of the GIPA team who arranged all the activities and puzzles for the children this week. The children had to find Beatrix Potter characters hidden high and low around the school grounds, identify 10 different vegetables from Mr McGregor's garden and find the 10 letters to solve the puzzle. They were all very pleased to receive their Easter eggs yesterday. Thank you to everyone who helped with this event.



Last Friday we had the brilliant M&M Productions in school with their touring performance of The Secret Garden. Lots of parents have told me that their children enjoyed the production and came out of school talking about it. If you have not yet paid the contribution of £5 towards this event, we would be really pleased to receive it. I know there have been lots of emails recently and it is easy to miss one. We need to cover the cost before we can book them for a return visit and a new show next spring. Thank you.



Today we received notification that Galleywood Infant School raised £722.96 for the Brain Tumour Charity in memory of Jon Tee. We have also raised £201.39 for the charity Raisin Hope, also in his memory. Wear a hat day last Friday was lots of fun.

Thank you for your amazing efforts to find, make or borrow a hat. Friday's event raised just over £370! we have some Wear-a-hat pin badges, which will be on sale in school after Easter to add further to our total.



Staffing

A new site manager has been appointed to work across Galleywood Infant School and St Michael's Junior School, **Mr Richard McAdam**. He starts work on 6th April and I have every confidence that from Tuesday 19th April the gates will be open on time! Apologies and thank you for your patience whilst we have been sharing this role amongst the staff team.

Thank you to **Mrs Yasmin Campling**, who has completed a full term of teaching in Squirrels class as part of her Post Graduate Certificate of Education. Mrs Campling is going to work with Yr6 children at Downham Primary School for the summer term.

Thank you to **Mrs Kirsty Eddy**, who has completed the first part of her SCITT teaching practice in Rabbits class. She will be working in a Foundation Stage class at Writtle Infant School until May half term to widen her experience in a different age group, and will then return to us in June. We have loved working with them both and wish them every success with their next placements.

We are very sad to say goodbye to three members of our Galleywood Infant School staff team today.

Liz McCabe has been a teaching assistant and midday assistant here for 9 years. Now that her sons are older, Liz feels ready to work fulltime and to further her career in mortgage services, which she began before she had her family.

Sharon Cordell has worked as a kitchen assistant for an incredible 22 years! Sharon started working at Galleywood when her children were pupils here, but has decided that for now at least she wants to spend more time with her family. We are hoping she has left instructions for making and decorating amazing cakes- Sharon's speciality!

Maa Ampadu has worked as a part-time kitchen assistant for 2 years. Maa will be taking on additional hours at Chelmsford College, where she also has a part-time job.



We wish all of them every success and happiness in the future and hope that they will all come and join us for special events including our Leavers' Assembly in July.



Staff Vacancies

We have two part-time staff vacancies, one as a kitchen assistant working 10 hours a week and one as an office assistant working 15 hrs a week. Details of both positions are available on the website www.essexschooljobs.co.uk and applications remain open until midnight on 14th April.

PE days for the first part of the summer term will be as follows:

Rabbits and Squirrels: Tuesday (outdoor PE) and Thursday (dance)

Owls and Hedgehogs: Wednesday (gymnastics) and Friday (outdoor PE)

Badgers and Foxes: Monday Forest Schools and Thursday gymnastics.

We will resend all the summer term dates after the Easter break, but just a reminder that we have class photographs on **Tuesday 26th April**.

We wish everyone a very happy and healthy Easter break and look forward to seeing everyone again on **Tuesday 19th April** after the Bank Holiday weekend.

