

Galleywood Infant School

Monday 31st October

Dear Parents and Carers,



I hope you had a lovely half term week and enjoyed the autumn sunshine, which was an extra bonus!

It was lovely to be able to share your children's work at the parent consultations before half term; there is so much fabulous learning in the classrooms and in the children's books that has come from the question, "How does your garden grow?"

We have launched the new half term learning theme today: Space, the Earth and Beyond. As part of the children's learning we have booked an inflatable planetarium, which will be in the hall next Wednesday 9th November.



Every class will have the chance to go inside the dome, see the solar system, stars and galaxies projected onto the top of the planetarium and learn from an expert about the wonders of space.



We are asking for a contribution of £3 per child towards this experience – this will be added to your parent pay account or you can send cash into the school office. Thank you.

Welcome back, Mrs Sayers!

We welcome Lizzie Sayers back to our staff team following her maternity leave. Mrs Sayers and Mrs Merry-Bowley are working 2 days/3 days on alternate weeks in Hedgehogs class. Miss Kenyon, who has been working in Hedgehogs class in September and October will be covering Mrs Needham's maternity leave until April.

I am grateful to Mrs Merry Bowley, Mrs Sayers and Miss Kenyon for all attending the parent consultation appointments together and also working closely on the planning for this half term so that expectations remain consistent and transition will be straightforward for children and families.



PE days for this half term

To ensure that all children experience each aspect of PE, our sports coaches rotate the groups each half term for Year 1 and Year 2. For November and December PE days are as follows:

Year 2: Wednesday gymnastics, Friday outdoor PE

Year 1: Tuesday outdoor PE, Thursday dance

Foundation stage: Wednesday Forest Fun, Friday outdoor PE (FS days unchanged)

Remembrance Day 11th November

Today in assembly we talked about Remembrance Day, using pictures and part of a presentation written for children by the Royal British Legion. We are selling poppies in school as usual and as last year we have wrist bands, clip-on reflective poppies or a tag for a zip. The suggested donations are £1 for a tag, clip on poppy or stretch band and £1.50 for a snap band.

If you would like your child to contribute to the British Legion Poppy Appeal, please send a donation in a purse or envelope; the tray of poppies and other items will be brought to each classroom by some Year 2 children at register time.



Food Bank donations



We were thrilled to be able to fill 20 heavy bags with the food and toiletries donated before half term. Chelmsford Food Bank were delighted to receive the bags and have asked me to pass on their very grateful thanks to school families and staff for such a generous response.

If you know of anyone experiencing difficulties and in need of emergency support from the foodbank, there are details on the Chelmsford Foodbank website of the voucher process. Please contact Citizens Advice, the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service or speak to me confidentially at any time, and we will do our best to help with a referral.

Winter Menu

Our new winter menu started today and runs until the Easter break. The menu is available on our school website and was sent to parents electronically before half term. If you have questions about lunchtimes including about individual dietary needs, please speak to a member of the office team, who can arrange for you to have a chat with Lesley Bond, our school cook if required.

GIPA fundraising

This year we have asked GIPA to fund raise towards replacing our very well used but outdated bank of 16 iPads. In addition to the fabulous Christmas activities currently being planned, we have another family cushion club on Friday 18th November (details to follow).

We would be very pleased to receive your child's Smarties tube filled with coins so that we can count up how much the children have raised by doing little jobs for friends and family. Thank you as always for amazing support, which benefits every child.



Flu Immunisation

This year the flu immunisation for all classes has been arranged for Wednesday 23rd November. Look out for further information and the immunisation consent form, which will be sent electronically later this week.