

Galleywood Infant School

Monday 13th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for an amazing response to World Book Day! The school was very colourful with a buzz of excitement all day, and the children loved the opportunity to see one another's costumes and spot familiar characters.



In my assemblies on Monday and Tuesday I used some resources from the World Book Day website, including the song for 2023, which lots of children have enjoyed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oK41hBv8HU0>

We talked about the first book children can remember really loving. Some of the staff shared their favourites and we watched short video clips from famous children's authors talking about the book they most remember from their childhood. Your children might ask about your own memories!

If you have not already done so, there is still time to go to a bookshop and exchange the £1 World Book Day voucher for one of the books specially written for this year that cost just £1. You can do this until 26th March.

There are lots of stories for younger children <https://www.worldbookday.com/share-a-story-corner/>

and audio books for children of all ages <https://www.worldbookday.com/world-of-stories/>

Reports and Parent consultations

Children in Year 1 and Year 2 received their report to take home on Friday. A great deal of work goes into these and I hope parents have found them helpful. Although school reports are traditionally written at the end of the school year, for many years now we have been writing detailed reports mid-way through the year so that staff and parents can work together to ensure every child achieves as much as possible.



Where reports have mentioned specific school resources such as Grow the Code charts, Year 1 tricky words, empty number lines, tens frames, etc., class teachers will have these available for parents to see and take home at the parent consultations next week.

If you have not already done so, then please find the email from Mrs Dennis sent on 6th March to book your appointment- there is lots of progress to see in the children's books!

Reading Books

We are very pleased with the progress children in Foundation Stage and Year 1 are making with the Little Wandle Phonics programme and daily reading practice. After four teachers from our staff team visited Myland Literacy Hub, we are making some changes to the books children bring home to read with families. Please see the attached reading letter for FS and year 1. A separate letter will follow for children in Year 2.

Our aim is for every child to become a confident, fluent reader who grows to love reading. The investment in new reading books has been huge, more than a school of our size can fund in a single year, and we really want to complete this change in our reading provision with some beautiful new books for the Year 2 classes.

If families are able to help us in this, and can afford to do so, we would be very grateful and will spend the money carefully on beautiful, enticing books that everyone will be able to access when they reach Year 2. In anticipation of this Mrs Dennis has set up a payment item on Parent Pay, where families can contribute £3, £5 or a sum you choose to support our work. We are very appreciative of any donation, and realise that times are hard for many people currently. Thank you.



Governor Visits

We were very pleased to share our World Book Day excitement with three of our school governors, June Gould, Vicki Servantes and Michelle Cracknell, who visited on Thursday as part of our planned programme of visits to see classroom, small group and individual provision for children with additional needs. They enjoyed the chance to talk to staff and children right across the school and see how much is going on- thank you to Kelly Fennell for organising this.



This week three governors will be having conversations with groups of children linked to their wellbeing, asking them questions about listening to their views, and next week Rob McIlvride and Steve Ditchburn will be visiting with a maths focus, meeting with Laura Ray, our maths leader and following up the visit in November.

Uniform



We have talked a lot about the best way to offer nearly new uniform to help reduce the costs for parents as well as recycling items that no longer fit to enable families to use fewer resources. We are very grateful for your donations and will welcome these again soon- please hold onto them until we have the space to accommodate more. If your child needs an item/items of uniform please email uniform@galleywood.essex.sch.uk with the details and Faye, Annabel and Maureen will do their best to help. We have had several customers already - brilliant!

Comic Relief

Our children always enjoy supporting Red Nose Day to raise money for Comic Relief. **This Friday 17th March** we are inviting children to come in non-uniform and wear something red, bringing a donation for Comic Relief. If children have the official red noses, or red nose merchandise from previous years, they are welcome to wear it, or to have a nose painted red with face paints if you wish.



In our assembly today, we have looked at some of the projects undertaken by this charity in past years, and also some of the challenges celebrities are undertaking to raise money. We will enjoy the spirit of Comic Relief in classrooms by sharing jokes and humorous poems. The children told some brilliant jokes in assembly today - be ready for your children to ask for your best joke!

If your children love Lego, there is a Comic Relief Lego challenge to check out: <https://www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday/schools/lego>

Lego would love to receive photos of anything they build, and so would we 😊





Wear a Hat Day

On the last day of this term, Friday 31st March we are asking children and staff to wear a hat and bring a donation for Brain Tumour Research. This can be a novelty hat, or a hat they have made. The work of the charity is very important to our school and St Michael's Junior School as we remember Mr Jonathan, who we lost to this cruel disease in December 2021. Please help us make a difference.

Where does our food come from?

Tomorrow all the children in Year 1 and Year 2 will be walking to Parklands Farm in Rignals Lane to see cereal crops, wheat and barley, growing in the fields. Hew and Christy Willett will talk to the children about how the crops are grown and harvested, and then show children how the harvested grain is milled into flour.



Children in all classes will be cooking with flour and next week; on 20th and 21st March, children will be making and bringing home their own mini pizza in a pizza box! We know there are several children with allergies to gluten and to cheese - please speak to your child's teacher so that we can adapt the experience and include everyone in the fun. Thank you.

Multi-Activity Holiday Camp



Premier Sport are once again running holiday camps during the Easter break for children aged between 5-12 yrs. These are now bookable online and will be running from 9am-3:30pm on Mon-Thur before Easter (3-6th April) and the Tue-Fri after Easter (11-14th April). Parents are able to book individual days or for a complete week. Search using the school postcode CM2 8RR.

School Council news

Our school council have been busy leading discussions in every class about 3 important things:

- We have talked about how to make partner talk in lessons even better and Mrs Manning is making a poster for every class with our ideas
- Mr McAdam asked us to remind our classes not to drop fruit peel and apple cores because people could slip. He also said that he keeps finding plastic wrappers from milk carton straws, so we are all being more careful to open milk indoors. Every class looked at some pictures and helped to choose a new bin- the winner was the monster bin, which will be on the big playground between the treehouse and the demountable classrooms.
- We chose our new learning star: 'Sticky the Starfish'!
The learning stars help us to be brilliant learners. We talked about how, when good learners find out something new, they make links and connections with somethings they already know; they connect their learning and it helps the new learning to stick! We had our first stars of the week for sticky learning on Friday, and all the classes have sticky the star fish learning tags for people who try hard to connect their learning. We are all learning to be sticky learners!

