

Galleywood Infant School

Friday 26th May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a very busy few weeks- I know families have received many emails relating to events and activities, and a full newsletter is overdue.



Coronation of King Charles III

The children looked wonderful on Friday 5th May dressed in red, white and blue and wearing a fabulous array of crowns and tiaras. We are very grateful to Lesley Bond, our cook, for baking 6 large chocolate cakes, which the children enjoyed decorating and then sharing with their visitors.



I was very impressed by the artistic efforts of Rabbits and Squirrels! They were challenged to add the coronation crown to their own self-portraits using the website Draw with Rob. You can try this via youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzOnobTOLUw>

Last Monday 15th May, Councillor Shreeve, Councillor McQuiggan and Abbey Richardson from Galleywood Parish Council visited our morning assembly to present every child with a commemorative mug and a packet of wildflower seeds. There should still be time for the seeds to germinate this year if your child is able to sow them in a small patch of garden or in a planter. Good luck! We would love to see some pictures if you are successful!

Visit to St Michael's Church

On Wednesday 10th May both Yr2 classes walked to St Michael's Church on Galleywood Common, where Reverend David Cattle met us. He talked to the children about what it means to be part of the church family, and showed the children what happens at a Christian Baptism service.

I am very grateful to all the parents who accompanied us and to Mrs Wade for leading the afternoon with Reverend David.



On Thursday 18th May we held our welcome meeting for parents of children due to start at Galleywood Infant School in September 2023. We are planning to admit 60 children, and start as always by visiting pre-school settings and arranging the 4 induction visits to school in June and July. We will be writing to you after half term to explain how we plan for your child's transition into their new class and year group.



It is lovely to see so many children riding scooters and bikes to school, having fun and getting fresh air on the way to school. However, with the number of adults, children and toddlers on our school site at drop off and pick up times it is not safe for children to ride on the school playground. We have bought some signs to remind everyone that children need to get off their bikes and scooters and push them in order to keep everyone safe. Thank you.



I am sure you will agree that the new doors and windows look amazing! The blue panels below the office and staffroom windows are a mistake and not what was agreed; they will be replaced with glass as soon as possible.

Badgers classroom was finished on Monday and the hall windows which require a scaffold tower, will be replaced during the half term week. Thank you for your patience taking alternative routes whilst this work is completed. I am sure there will be huge benefits next winter, as well as giving our 1960s school a facelift!



Once again there will be a storytelling event for families during the half term week in Galleywood. A professional storyteller will be entertaining children between 1-2pm at Twitten Green on Thursday 1st June. You are invited to bring a picnic and enjoy the day!

Internet Safety

Many children are now accessing devices within the very first years of life. Sadly, this means that young children are now exposed to many risks associated with using devices. Are we doing enough to protect children in the early years, and to help them to form healthy and positive online habits?

Free Webinar for parents

We have partnered with the [Early Years Alliance](#) to offer a 1 hour webinar on **Thursday 8th June 10-11am** to parents of children aged 0-5 years, about simple steps to take to keep children safe when using online devices. Find out more [here](#)

Access ParentSafe

Thank you GIPA!

The disco last Friday afternoon was noisy and lots of fun. DJ John kept the children dancing, singing along, winning prizes and then to end the event covered us all in brightly coloured confetti from confetti cannons. We had lots of help from the brilliant GIPA team- thank you for making this event possible. DJ John will be back at Galleyfest on 8th July.



A huge thank you to GIPA and to everyone who has contributed to our events this year. GIPA have funded an amazing 20 new iPads, together with a charging trolley, which can be wheeled into class for use in many different lessons. Children in Year 1 have been learning to build sequences of commands into a programme using the app Scratch Junior.

Our brilliant new iPads in use!



Today your child will have brought home a special bookmark to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III. These have been provided by GIPA for every child as a souvenir of a historical event. We hope you will enjoy using them in a favourite book, or keep them safe until your child is older.

We need your help and hope that everyone will get active during the half term break, finding sponsors as part of our 2023 sponsored event. Our aim is for children and families to have fun exercising to the Joe Wicks 8-minute workout: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uw9ug_g-gM

We have shown the children some of the amazing books we have been able to buy using your generous donations, and we have a shopping list of new books so that the Year 2 book clubs (daily paired and group reading with carefully chosen texts) can run from September through the whole year.

Thank you in advance for your support in helping your child to find sponsors and to take part in the workouts. We promise every penny raised will be spent on exciting, funny and interesting books to make sure every child leaves our school loving reading 😊



Foxes and Badgers Pirate Day

Yesterday morning our Foundation Stage classes set off for Danbury Outdoors Centre for a day of pirate themed activities led by rangers. All the children took part in pirate challenges such as untangling knots, turning the boat over without getting wet, firing cannons at targets. The afternoon was spent making their own flags using wild flowers and grasses, and drawing treasure maps to hide their own treasure. Everyone had fun, children and grown-ups alike.



Parent lunches

We were delighted to welcome parents of children in Yr2 to have school dinner with their child on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday this week. It seems a long time since we were able to offer this for parents and we are so pleased to be able to accommodate all year groups during the summer term. Our kitchen and midday teams do a brilliant job every day- we hope you enjoy our school lunches!



Just a reminder that school closes at 3:10pm on Friday for half term, and reopens for children on **Tuesday 6th June**.

Monday 5th June is a non-pupil day and staff will be in school for training. We hope the sun shines for us all next week!

