

## Galleywood Infant School

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2017



Dear Parents,

### Ofsted

As many of you will know our school had not been inspected since May 2011. At lunchtime on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October we received notification by phone that an inspection would take place the following day. With a lot of discussion and work going on behind the scenes we proceeded calmly with Parent Consultations in the school hall. Thank you to the 45 parents who completed the online Parent View survey, and to the parents and children who spoke to Mrs Impey, HMI, during the day on Tuesday. We are awaiting the short inspection report and will let parents and families know the outcome as soon as possible.



Attached to this newsletter is a summary of responses received from our Parent Survey in July 2017, together with actions and comments from the school.

### Harvest Cafes

It was lovely to welcome so many of you to our Yr1 and Yr2 lunchtime cafes. The bread rolls baked by the children were delicious and lots of visitors enjoyed tasting our home made soup. We are grateful to everyone who helped with the cafes, shopping for ingredients, cooking with the children over a number of days, making quiz sheets and activities for children to do with their visitors and working through lunch hours to prepare, serve and clear away. Thank you too to Mrs Bond and the kitchen team for lending us recipes, baking trays and the use of their oven. We planned to compile the recipes for soup, rolls and apple crumble, as well as pumpkin muffins they made the previous week so that families could do some half term cooking. With our inspection last week this fell from our jobs list, but we will ensure you have this for Bonfire Night weekend!



Happy cooking!

### School Website

Over the last couple of years, we have tried different ways to improve communication and share information in ways that enable families to access what they need easily at any time. This summer we took the decision to completely renew our website, researching school websites to commission a web designer for the autumn term. The build has been in progress since mid October and we are hoping to launch the new website in early November. As this will be a bespoke design we have more control over the layout and functionality- please speak to me or email if you have ideas for additional features that would be helpful.

### Parking

Traffic and parking congestion in Barnard Road at the beginning and end of the school day is an ongoing concern. We are working with Galleywood Parish Council and will very soon be launching an online petition as a first step towards applying for a pedestrian crossing near the school. I know this is something parents have spoken to me about many times. Look for further details in a week or two.



If you have no alternative and need to drive to school, please park considerately in a way that does not endanger others. Drivers who pull onto the pavement anywhere near the school are endangering pedestrians- parents pushing a buggy have told us they often need to step into the road when cars have 2 wheels on the pavement as they are unable to get past. Please be especially aware of this along the access roads opposite the school, near to the Co-op.

## Galleywood Allotments

Children in Yr1 and Yr2 enjoyed a wonderful walk to the allotments in Chaplin Close on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Members of the Allotment Society showed the children how pumpkins, leeks, onions and a range of vegetables grow. Each class brought back some bunches of prize dahlias to brighten up our school. We are grateful to Mrs Ray for organising this visit, including the risk assessments, and to the many parents who accompanied classes for the walk.

## Fun and Games

Our new learning theme for Yr1 and Yr2 classes is Fun and Games. To launch this theme we have a toy making workshop and museum coming to school on Thursday and Friday, when every child in Yr1 and Yr2 will have the opportunity to make a wooden toy, and to handle real toys from days gone by. We are asking for a donation of £8 per child towards the cost of the activities.



## GIPA party

If you have not yet bought a ticket for GIPA's Autumn Party on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, you have a few days left to do so. Mr Happy is a great entertainer and made sure everyone had a lovely time at our Leavers' Disco in July. He is back with games, magic and music to entertain children between 5-6:30. You are welcome to stay with children in Foxes and Badgers if they are a little unsure, and we ask parents to stay with children below school age as they do not know school staff or helpers yet.

## Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service

Are you worried or have concerns about your child's health?

Come along to a 'Drop in' Session, where you can meet a member of our Chelmsford School Nurse Team.

We can offer support and advice on the following topics and any other health issues which may be concerning you.

- Day and night wetting
- Hearing and vision tests
- Weight and dietary issues
- General physical and emotional health problems
- Sleep/behavioural concerns

There are two venues,

**Kings Road Primary School**, Dixon Avenue, Chelmsford CM1 2AQ on **Mondays - Time: 15:30 - 16:30**

18th September, 2nd October, 16th October, 6th November, 20th November, 4th December, 18th December

**The School House opposite Moulsham Junior School/beside Moulsham Infant School**, Princes Road, Chelmsford, CM2 9DG on **Wednesdays - Time: 15:30 - 16:30**

27th September, 11th October, 1st November, 15th November, 29th November, 13th December

No appointment necessary

For further information call: Deborah Smith on 07712 690957

## Poppies

The school is selling poppies on behalf of the Royal British Legion. The children will have an assembly about Remembrance Day on Thursday and will be able to buy a poppy from Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, bringing a donation to their classroom first thing in the morning. Adults are very welcome to buy a poppy before or after school via the office.



## Galleywood Infant School      Outcomes from parent survey      Summer 2017

36 Questionnaires were received (21%) (Questionnaires went out with reports 2 wks before the end of term. In 2018 we will survey parents in June and offer an electronic version to try and obtain a higher response rate)	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
My child is happy at school	35		1
My child feels safe at this school	36 (100%)		
My child makes good progress at school	35	1	
My child is well looked after at this school	36 (100%)		
My child is taught well at this school	35		1
Staff expect my child to work hard and do his or her best	35		1
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	31	3	2
The school ensures the pupils are well behaved	35		1
The school deals effectively with bullying	27		9
The school is well led and managed	35		1
The school works well to ensure children attend	34		2
I am happy with the curriculum provided	35		1
I receive useful information from the school about my child's progress	35	1	
I am made to feel welcome in the school	36 (100%)		
The school responds well to any concerns I raise	35	1	

### Highlights

- Social side of school
- Everything active
- Puddings!
- Getting star of the week
- Special events such as fete, cushion club, Christmas play, trips, sports day
- Being on School Council, responsibilities
- All the topics!
- Completing maths challenges (3 diff comments)
- Pop up planetarium and space camp (mentioned 3 diff parents)
- Learning to write joined up
- Topics, especially Fire of London & Castles
- Topics, especially Space, London, Into the Woods
- Topics, especially Chocolate, Space, Castles
- After school clubs with teachers
- Seeing the amount of progress made Yr2
- Camp over and fete
- PE lessons
- Forest Schools (several mentions)
- So much progress with writing in FS
- Learning to write
- Making new friends
- Being creative in art
- Seeing our child grow in confidence (several mentions)
- Lambs visiting school
- None (one negative response received)

## What could we do better?

<p><b>Homework:</b>          Not enough feedback and response to homework          Child struggled with homework          Disagree with homework at primary age          Need more homework- hope improves in Yr1          Holiday homework is stressful</p>	<p><i>As the range of comments show, parents have widely differing views of homework. We strongly believe that children need time for other activities after school, at weekends and in holidays. Staff and Governors are currently reviewing our homework policy and will consider these comments and children's views as part of the process.</i></p>
<p><b>Communication:</b>          Make more use of social media to communicate          A little more notice for times when parents need to visit, or parents asked to provide items.          Communication around "self esteem" course (addressed now)          Better communication about Forest Schools days</p>	<p><i>We understand how frustrating and stressful it can be to receive notice at the last minute. We try very hard to publicise dates well in advance and to keep "Diary Dates" section of the website current. We invested in a school app last year to enable prompt notification of events, publication of newsletters, etc but acknowledge (from many pieces of feedback) that it did not meet your needs. The school website is being completely rebuilt from scratch in October and hope it will be much more useful as a reference point for busy families.</i>  <i>Mrs Fennell has written an overview of our small group interventions so that parents know what is going on can see what we hope to achieve in this time.</i></p>
<p><b>Reading:</b>          More reading in school          Wider range of books for reading, more structure</p>	<p><i>Improving outcomes in reading is our whole school target this year. We have invested in training, in new materials and in some new books. We are overhauling our library and hope you will notice the difference.</i></p>
<p>Sports day – 2 comments          Consider team points at sports day, more races.</p>	<p><i>From Miss Usher: we have talked to the children about events at the challenge and some really do not enjoy races! We will have some traditional races next year as one of the activities.</i></p>
<p>Managing the transition from FS to Yr1 (2 comments)</p>	<p><i>From Mrs Foster: Our aim is for children to start Yr1 feeling confident, happy and safe. FS and Yr1 teachers work closely together to ensure your child's teacher knows members of her new class as well as possible, including particular interests, needs and approaches that work well for him/her. We continue to talk to one another daily to help children settle and thrive.</i></p>
<p>More clubs run by teachers</p>	<p><i>With the meetings, training and planning sessions teachers are asked to attend it is difficult to commit to more than 3-4 wks in a block. For Spring &amp; Summer 2018 we will aim to offer 5 clubs, with more choice.</i></p>
<p>Pushing to have lollipop person outside school am &amp; pm</p>	<p><i>Governors and staff are also very concerned about this situation and have been for a long period of time.</i>  <i>We are working with the Highways dept to</i></p>

	<p><i>support recruitment, and also working with Galleywood Parish Council to explore the possibility of installing a pedestrian crossing on Barnard Road. This week we will be issuing a questionnaire to parents to help gather evidence for Parish Council application.</i></p> <p><i>We have arranged road safety walks once again for the Foundation Stage children and include Road Safety within the Yr1 PSHE curriculum.</i></p> <p><i>We remind parents about parking responsibilities in newsletters and carry out occasional monitoring at drop off/pick up times, which is reported to Essex CC.</i></p>
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