

Galleywood Infant School

Saturday 3rd February

Dear Parents,

Black and White day

We hope everyone has received the message that next Friday 9th February will be our Black and White day, with your donations helping each class to choose and “adopt” an animal from the Polar regions.



The whole school have very much enjoyed the Frozen Planet learning theme; regular updates and newsletters sent to each class by the World Wide Fund for Nature will help to sustain the children’s interest and enthusiasm. Look out for our classroom displays!



Assemblies

Yesterday we enjoyed a wonderful assembly, led very confidently by Hedgehogs class. We love sharing these events with family and friends, and remind parents of the following dates and times:

Owls class assembly is on Friday 9th February, **Badgers class assembly** is on Friday 11th May and **Foxes class assembly** on Friday 18th May. Assemblies start at 10:15 and last for 15-20 minutes. Younger brothers and sisters are welcome. Doors open at 10am. Afterwards we invite you to stay for a drink and a biscuit with your child and their class.

Reading focus

Last week we welcomed an Education Consultant and two Headteacher colleagues to spend the day in our school and help us look very closely at how we teach reading. Their report was highly positive and has given us a few “tweaks”, small changes that could make a big difference. This week Lisa Bone, School Governor and chair of the Governors Learning and Ethos Committee, spent the morning in classrooms with Miss Williams, looking closely at how reading and writing develops from Foundation Stage into Year 2. We have some exciting plans for our book week beginning on 26th February and will be working closely this year on a project with teachers at St Michael’s Junior School, Beehive Lane and Larkrise Primaries and both Baddow Hall schools to ensure that children don’t just learn to read, but learn to love reading.



Spider Climber

Children are really enjoying our new Spider Climber. During the winter it often becomes very muddy around the pirate ship and trim trail so it is good to have the all weather safety surface around the spider climber. We are reminding children that it is for climbing, climbing up and climbing down, asking them not to try and jump from the higher beams. If your child uses the equipment before or after school please reinforce this for everyone's safety. Thank you.

Foundation Stage Parent Consultations

These meetings take place this week on Wednesday and Thursday. Mrs Foster and Miss Mildinhal are looking forward to sharing the exciting progress your children have been making. There will be a chance to look at their work and to look in the classroom before and after talking to your child's teacher. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available for parents to help themselves. We look forward to seeing you.

Our next Foundation Stage coffee morning will be on Thursday 1st March and the focus will be helping your child to become confident in maths. Mrs Foster and Mrs Ray, our maths leader, look forward to seeing lots of parents in the library for coffee after dropping your child at 9am.



Homework

The staff and Governors have just finished reviewing and updating our Galleywood Infant School Homework policy. Parent surveys show us that homework can provoke a range of views from families. We have listened to your feedback and no longer set project type tasks or homework that extends across school holidays as an introduction to the next learning theme. Learning spelling and key maths facts by heart enables children to work more quickly and be much more productive in lessons. Talking about their books at home helps children to better understand their reading and to ask you about the meaning of words they may not have heard before. Teachers will be carrying out a homework survey with all children this week to gather their views and ideas; we will report the outcomes after half term.

Crossing Patrol

We were delighted yesterday to hear that the School Crossing Patrol Service has been successful in appointing somebody for Barnard Road at both the beginning and end of the school day. Training will begin as soon as possible and we hope to have a Crossing Patrol in post for the summer term.



Thank you to GIPA for organising two cushion club events in quick succession, showing Boss Baby and The Secret Life of Pets in our library, which is a warmer and cosier venue than the hall. Thank you for supporting these events, which the children very much enjoy.

Next Friday 9th February is the last day of this half term. School starts again on Monday 19th February.