

# Galleywood Infant School

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

Today you will be aware of a number of measures included in Stage 3 of the Government's road map to ease Coronavirus restrictions. Updated guidance has been issued for schools confirming that from today staff are no longer required to wear face coverings in classrooms. Staff and visitors will continue to wear masks in the communal areas such as the school hall and in corridors where we cannot socially distance.

It is very good news that incidence of the virus is currently very low, and that the vaccination programme continues with a high uptake. However, there are positive coronavirus cases in Essex schools currently and groups of children isolating. With many aspects of daily life opening up again it is likely that infection rates will rise and we want all our children to be well and in school. We have to maintain our vigilance, keep handwashing, keep children in class bubbles and continue to require parents, carers and staff to wear face coverings for drop off and pick up.

A letter from Clare Kershaw, Director of Education, accompanies this newsletter.



I know that children are keen to use the climbing equipment before and after school but this is timetabled for different year group bubbles at playtime and lunchtime, so we need to prevent other children from using it. We will explain this in school but please ensure toddlers and younger siblings keep away from the spider climber and tree house for a few more weeks.

We are cautiously planning some summer events and hoping these will be possible, always aware that a rise in Covid cases will block the full relaxation of measures scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> June.

## Beekeeper visit

It was lovely to welcome Stacy Cronly-Dillon to school last week to talk to all classes about her beekeeping. The children were able to see the protective clothing she wears, to learn more about what happens inside a beehive and to begin to understand why bees are so important in ensuring we all have enough food to eat.



Stacy kindly left some jars of honey for the children to taste. Foxes and Badgers have been making and tasting honey sandwiches, whilst Owls and Hedgehogs mixed and baked some wonderful honey flapjack. This week Rabbits and Squirrels are cooking with honey each day- look out for their own honey recipe book at the end of the week!

Please check out her website: [www.sunnyfieldshoney.com](http://www.sunnyfieldshoney.com) as Stacy runs lots of activities from her farm in South Norfolk and sells her honey from a number of outlets in East Anglia.



## Pirate Day

**This Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May** we are hoping for good weather for our day of pirate activities. Children will take part in a treasure hunt looking for gold and yellow clues around our field and in the forest area. They will play a selection of pirate games including digging for treasure, pop-up pirate, island hopping and roll the cannon ball. There will also be pirate activities in classrooms and sea shanties



in music lessons. We hope as many children as possible will be able to dress up to add to the occasion.

Every child will receive a small reward and a certificate for completing the 6 challenges. We hope you will support GIPA raise money to replace the much loved pirate ship by helping your child collect some sponsors ahead of Pirate Day on Friday!

## Summer Term Visit

Guidance allows us to take children for day visits travelling by coach and we are thrilled to have booked to take all year groups to Hyde Hall for a day of activities led by the Royal Horticultural Society. Visit dates are as follows:

|                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Owls and Hedgehogs    | Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> June    |
| Rabbits and Squirrels | Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June |
| Foxes and Badgers     | Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> July     |



An online form will be sent on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May with further details of the visit and the opportunity to order a packed lunch for your child if you wish to do so. Payment will be made electronically through Parent Pay by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June. If you would like to accompany us on this visit, please indicate on the electronic reply slip – we do not know at this stage how many parent helpers we are able to take with us, but it would be useful to know who is available and you will be contacted closer to the time of the trip.

## Bicycles and Scooters

We are delighted to see children riding bicycles and scooters to and from school, but I am afraid we cannot allow children to ride them on the playground at the beginning and end of the school day. With so many children, younger siblings, babies in buggies and family members of all ages we need to do our best to keep everyone safe. Please remind your child to push their bicycle or scooter until they are away from the school grounds. Thank you.

