

Galleywood Infant School

Friday 9th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



Galleywood Infant School joins with the nation in mourning the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, our longest reigning monarch. We held a short assembly today for children in Yr1 and Yr2 to reflect on the many parts of her long and happy life. We are planning a further assembly led by Rev David Cattle closer to the state funeral and will keep you up to date with any further guidance we receive from the Department for Education regarding the 10 day national mourning period and any required actions.

Welcome back to school

A very warm welcome to everyone, families who are new to our school, families returning after the summer break and those returning to Galleywood Infant School with a younger sibling. Many of us work in school on and off through the summer, but the school building never feels complete without the children and it was lovely to welcome you all on Monday. The children have settled really well and all parts of the school feel calm and purposeful. I am very grateful to the staff who have worked hard over the summer to refresh and renew spaces for learning and play- thank you!



New staff

This term we welcome Mrs Etty and Mrs Wood to our teaching team, Mrs Bray, Miss Champion, Miss Dennis and Mrs Webb who join our teaching assistant team and Mrs Gill, who will be working part time in our school office. We will be updating our photo-board both in the welcome area and on our website in the next few days. We are delighted they have joined our Galleywood team and hope they will be very happy here.

Welcome to a new year of learning!



On **Thursday 22nd September** we would like you to come to a short meeting, about 30 mins, to hear about the learning that is planned for your child this year and how you will be involved to ensure your child has the most successful year possible. Teachers will give the same short talk at **2:30pm** and **5:30pm**, mapping out the learning themes that are planned across the year for children in Foundation Stage, Year 1 or Year 2. You will hear how our learning journey fits together, how areas of learning will link, how expectations build from term to term and about a few things that we will be doing differently this year.

You are welcome to bring younger siblings and if you have no alternative child care, and your child can sit quietly with you for the 5:30 meeting if you wish. Please arrive through our front entrance to sign in. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on 22nd September.



One of the changes this year is that we have adopted a new phonics scheme, **Little Wandle for Letters and Sounds**- you might have noticed new phonics friezes in our classrooms. There is a lot to share with you, and especially for parents with children in Foxes, Badgers, Owls and Hedgehogs. Phonics and reading, including reading at home, will be organised differently and we have some beautiful new books to show you, as well as a new website with an online library.

Mrs Needham will be leading 2 parent information sessions as follows:

- Phonics and reading for Year 1 on **Wednesday 21st September, 9-10am**
- Phonics and reading for Foundation Stage on **Thursday 29th September, 9-10am.**

We will send a reminder next week- please do join us, the sessions will be very informative.

Fence project

We are delighted with our new fence, which many of you saw being constructed towards the end of August. We are pleased that the design of the fence has allowed us to greatly improve safety and security for the children, parents, staff and for our school site whilst enabling us to still feel close to and part of the local community.

Names please!

Thank you for working so hard to ensure that your child has smart uniform. There are lots of lovely new lunchboxes and water bottles. Whilst your child will usually recognise their own items, it really helps us when items are clearly named as we can make sure children have all their belongings at the end of the day. Class teams always have a quick check of cloakroom areas at home time, so help us to reduce lost property this year by jotting a name onto every item, including active wear for PE days, coats and gloves when we need them! Thank you.



Nut allergies

Once again we have several children in school who could have a severe reaction if they were to come into contact with nuts in any form. For some children this could simply be touching a surface that your child has touched after eating a food containing nuts. For the safety of these children, please do not include the following:

Peanut butter sandwiches

Chocolate spreads (even those without nuts, as we are unable to test/check)

Cereal bars or granola bars containing nut pieces

Cakes or biscuits containing chopped nuts

This list is not exhaustive so please check packaging if you are unsure. Thank you.



School dates 2022-23

I have attached our key dates for this school year, 2022-23, having checked with Mrs Prigg that there are no clashes with key dates at St Michael's Church of England Junior School. As other dates are added, for example a Christmas Carol Service or school visits, we will endeavour to give as much notice as possible to parents and carers. For many events additional information will follow nearer the time.

GIPA, Galleywood Infant Parents Association, will invite you to join their first meeting later in September, when some dates for special events such as a Christmas Fair, will be decided and notified to everyone.

Contact details

I know it can be difficult for parents with work commitments to speak with a member of staff. We are always happy to return phone calls to the office, 01245 472686, or if you wish to contact your child's class teacher by email, a message sent to admin@galleywood.essex.sch.uk will be forwarded for a response, usually at the end of the teaching day.

If you wish to contact me directly about any matter, I am always in the playground at the start of the school day and available via email to sarahmanning@galleywood.essex.sch.uk