



Dear Parents and Carers,



Next Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June is our annual sports afternoon, and we hope that lots of families will join us - younger brothers and sisters very welcome. During the afternoon every child will have the chance to take part in some throwing activities, some jumping activities and some races along our marked track. The activities have been chosen by Mrs Sayers, our PE leader, so that every child can be successful but there is a level of challenge for everyone, encouraging children to use and develop their skills, strength and coordination.

Visitors are invited to arrive from 1:15pm, entering the school site via our side gate and signing in at some tables, one for each year group, on the playground. If you have children in more than one year group, you only need to sign in once - choose the shortest queue!

We hope to see as many of you as possible on Thursday. Please note - visitors arriving after 1:30pm will need to sign in at the office as the side gate will be locked for security.

### Yr2 mini-Olympics

As members of the Chelmsford Schools Sports Partnership, our Year 2 classes are invited each year to take part in a mini-Olympics competition at Chelmsford Athletics Stadium. This year, due to resurfacing work at the stadium, the event took place in the adjacent park. Mrs Needham and Mrs Wood were very proud of the Galleywood children's excellent behaviour and attitudes, and thrilled that our school were the overall winners of the competition! We had three individual medal winners, Ned, Xander and Amelia, and overall more points than any other school competing on 8<sup>th</sup> June! Brilliant work!



The children wrote recounts of their morning:

*Yesterday it was a sunny, warm and beautiful morning. I went on a school trip to the Mini Olympics at Melbourne Park. I felt overjoyed but worried at the same time. When we arrived at the park we saw two mascots, a lion and a teddy bear, who high fived us as we all came in. We got into a line and shouted "Jamaica" because we were in a parade with lots of children.*



*We started to play the games and the first three games I played were cup stacking, star jumps to bunny hops to side steps, and then cheerleading. We had to do the jumping really quickly and my score was 11 seconds. In the beanbag race you had to put one beanbag down and run to get another one. We played on balance bikes and for safety we put on a helmet, then go, go, go! It was time for the running races. After that the winners were announced and some people had a lot of points. What a wonderful morning!*

Thank you to the staff who accompanied the trip and to the parents who supported us.

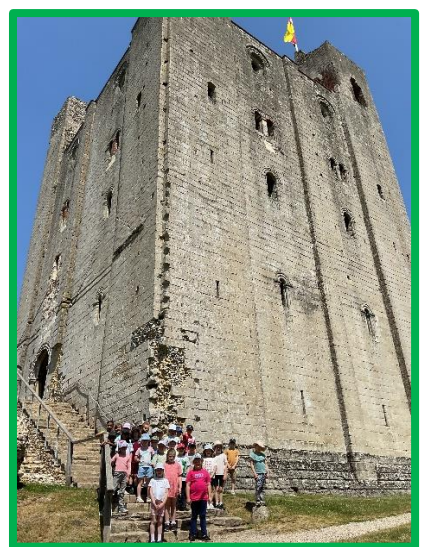
## Hedingham Castle



We enjoyed two wonderful days at Hedingham Castle with the Yr1 classes on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> and the Yr2 classes on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June.

The weather was perfect for sketching outside as well as playing some aiming games, visiting the dungeon and eating lunch under the shade of the huge trees. It was much cooler inside the 900 year old keep, where the children tried on armour, looked at replica weapons that might have been used in a siege and took part in re-enacting a banquet scene hosted by the lord and lady of the castle.

Historians Nigel and Andy led the groups on both days, sharing stories and adding to what the children already knew about the different roles and jobs within the castle community. They commented on our children's excellent behaviour, attentive listening and pre-knowledge - we felt very proud of everyone!



We followed up the visit with a Castle Day on Friday, when the children took part in lots of hands on activities linked to our visit. They made scented bags with lavender and rose petals to ward off illness, they sculpted clay gargoyles, made their own shields, became court minstrels and danced to 15<sup>th</sup> century music.

In the afternoon the children learned how to be a court jester and perform jokes, tried their hand at jousting and shooting with a bow and arrow before coming together for a banquet in the hall.

A huge thank you to our staff team, who spent a lot of time preparing for a fun and memorable day!



## Reports

This Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June Foundation Stage children will bring home their annual report; children in Year 1 and Year 2 will bring home a summary report and a report written by the children themselves as well as the outcomes from the statutory assessments they have completed. If you have any questions about any of the information, please speak to your child's teacher or arrange with the office for a phone call or email.

With the report will be a questionnaire and the opportunity for parents to give any feedback you wish about your child's year at our school. This information is read and considered carefully by the leadership team and governors as we begin to shape the development plan for next year.



## GIPA Galleyfest

It is only 2 weeks to Galleyfest on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 11:30am-3pm**. Early Bird wrist bands are now available in the playground after school and from the office.

Our colour raffle last year was spectacular and very popular- please help us to repeat this success!

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June will be a non-uniform day** and we are asking children to bring a couple of items for our colour boxes: red, orange, yellow, blue, green and purple. We would love to receive toys, games, sweets, biscuits, drinks, shower gel, etc on Friday morning. See what you can find! Thank you.



We are looking forward to a brilliant day of fun; however, we need lots of offers of help so that we can run all of the planned activities. Please let the office or one of the GIPA team know if you, or a member of your family, can run a game or activity for half an hour or longer. Thank you.

## Open evening

On **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July** you are invited to come back to school with your child to see and celebrate their most recent work. The school and classrooms will be open between **4-6pm** and you can arrive at any time via the front entrance. Your children will enjoy showing you how much progress they have made! This is a chance for you to talk to your child's teacher and for children in Foundation Stage and Year One to visit their new classrooms. Classes for 2023-24 are being organised and children will spend two afternoons, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July in their new classrooms with their new teachers.

Class teachers will prepare a welcome letter for children to take home after the second visit with photos of their teachers and the class team, so that families can become familiar with names and faces ahead of the new term.

## Galleywood Get Active



Thank you for your response to our sponsored event to raise money for books. We have received almost £900 from children who took part in the fitness activities - brilliant! Please bring any remaining sponsor money to the office this week so that we can order new books for September.

## Summer Holiday Reading Challenge



Ready, Set, Read launches on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July** and runs until Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Children will learn about this in an assembly next week and will bring home an invitation to take part.

This is free to all children - all you need to do is visit Galleywood library or another local library to join. For more information see the youtube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLSGb6g7nRY>

## Year 2 Leavers' Assembly- change of start time

We try not to change any dates or times that have been circulated to parents in advance, as we know that family lives are busy and arrangements for time off are complex. However, this is just a reminder to parents with a child in Year 2 that our Leavers' Presentation will now be at **11am on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July** rather than 10am. This will allow some parents with a child in Year 6 to attend the Leavers' Service at St Michael's Church at 9:30, and then join us for the presentation. You will receive a personal invitation from your child nearer the time 😊