

# Galleywood Infant School

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

## 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 know how hard the staff have worked over the summer to refresh and renew spaces for learning and play as well as displays- thank you!



## Staff news

This term we welcome Mrs Hayley King, Miss Ellie Holditch, Mrs Harriet Quinnear, Mrs Sue Easteal and Mrs Catherine Goodey to our classroom support teams. 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, welcome the additional skills and knowledge they bring and hope they will be very happy here.

We send our very best wishes to Ms Campion, who worked across Year 1 last year- Ms Campion has recently started a new role with Essex Police.

Two members of our staff team are starting university degrees in the next few weeks; Miss Emily Ford will continue to work at our school part-time whilst she studies for a degree in Early Childhood Studies with Anglia Ruskin University. Miss Lily Dennis will be moving to Norwich where she is starting her 3 year degree in Graphic Design. We have loved having Miss Dennis in school for the start of term to help settle children to new classes, and hope that she will be back to visit at Christmas and next summer. We hope Lily and Emily enjoy their studies and have lots of fun!

## Welcome to a new year of learning!



On **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September** at 2:30pm we would like you to come to a short meeting, about 40 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 a short talk 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 how you can support your child to have a brilliant year.

You are welcome to bring younger siblings, and grandparents would be very welcome to attend if they are due to collect your child on that day. Please arrive through our front entrance to sign in. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on 19<sup>th</sup> September. We will share the presentations via our website for parents who have children in two different year groups, or for parents who are not able to join us.

## 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**

Again we have several children in school who would 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)**

**Cereal bars or granola bars containing nut pieces**

**Cakes or biscuits containing chopped nuts**



This list is not exhaustive and some food items you would not expect are labelled as containing traces of nuts. Please check packaging or speak to us if you are unsure. Thank you.

### **School dates 2023-24**

Our key dates for this school year, 2023-24, are currently being checked to ensure that there are no clashes with key dates at St Michael's Church of England Junior School. I hope that dates will be distributed early next week, when the calendar on our school website will be populated so parents can make a quick check for forthcoming events.

GIPA, Galleywood Infant Parents Association, will invite you to come to our first meeting later in September, when some ideas and dates for special events will be discussed, planned and notified to everyone.

### **Metcalfe School of Dance**

At the end of last term, we were approached by the Metcalfe School of Dance, to see if they could use our school hall as an additional venue for their dance classes. These will commence on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 4.30pm – if you are interested at all in seeking a dance class for your child, please look at the following link for details of what is on offer, on which days and at which venue - <http://www.metcalfeschoolofdancing.com/>

### **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](mailto:admin@galleywood.essex.sch.uk) will be forwarded for a response.

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