

# Galleywood Infant School

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

## The Great Fire of London

Yesterday we welcomed History Off the Page, a brilliant company who provide immersive experiences linked to the Key Stage 1 history curriculum. Our Yr2 children had a wonderful day learning new skills and at the same time absorbing lots of facts and information about life in London in 1666.

I was told frequently throughout the day how polite, engaged and delightful our Year 2 children are- we agree! We are very grateful to the adults who helped yesterday and to everyone from Yr1 who has volunteered for today's Year 1 workshops. We hope you enjoy the day, too!



## 96.9% attendance!

We were delighted that on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November our average attendance for the period Sept-Nov 2023 is 96.9%. Well done! This is our best attendance % since before the Covid pandemic in 2020.

Our office team monitor and record absence information as well as late arrivals daily- please remember that if your child arrives after the gates have been closed and before 9:15, this is a late arrival and a reason must be recorded at the office for the child to be marked present.

There are 24 children in school with attendance below 94% and it is our practice to notify parents at an early stage when attendance is causing a concern. Early in the school year a short illness can cause children to fall into a low attendance group, and we hope that with early notification we can work with parents to bring attendance above 90% and closer to our school average of 96% for all children.

## Remembrance Day



Remembrance Day is next Saturday and my assembly presentation this week is about people who protect us and the work of the Royal British Legion. If your child would like to support this charity and buy one of the items shown in assembly, they can bring a donation of £1 per item in a purse or envelope. Paper poppies are also available for a donation of any amount.

## Children in Need

We know that families and staff like to support the BBC Children in Need appeal, and will be inviting children, staff and parents to wear spots or stripes on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November and bring a donation to their classroom.

Our School Council will enjoy the job of collecting and counting the donations!

Thank you.





Essex have released the term dates for 2024-2025 and I have spoken to Mrs Prigg at St Michael's in order to set our training days earlier this year. I am hoping that with plenty of advance notice, families will be able to book annual leave within the school holiday period and perhaps make use of the bank holidays or non-pupil days for a long weekend getaway. The holiday dates are attached to the newsletter and will be uploaded to the website for reference.

It is great to see almost everyone in black or navy hoodies and joggers for PE days-the children look really smart, thank you. When the children get warm in school it can be tricky to ensure everyone has the right top to take home- please could you take a minute to write names onto the label or to iron/ sew a name tag into your child's active wear as you have for their school uniform? Named items will always find their way back to your child.



Thank you to GIPA for the huge effort involved in collecting, sending, sorting and distributing the Christmas cards- we hope you liked them! Don't forget that Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November is the cut off date for online orders. This project generates important funds for the school and I am sure the cards or gift items with your child's design will be treasured by family members.



Next week on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November we have our second **Open Morning** for parents with a child due to start school in September 2024. Please pass this information to friends and neighbours. I have also offered a number of school tours lasting 45mins-1hour- see our website for details and to book.

Applications for school places for September 2024 opened today, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Parents with a pre-school child need to apply online for Foundation Stage places for Sept 2024.

Parents with a child in Year 2 need to apply online for a place in Year 3 for Sept 2024.

**From 6 November 2023**, applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions)

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2024**

Remember there is not a rush to do this, no applications will be processed until after 15<sup>th</sup> January, but any applications made after 15<sup>th</sup> January will be classed as late and considered once all other children have been placed.

As always, if you need any help with the application or have any questions, then please do ask us and we will do our best to support you.



#### **Foundation Stage Curriculum and Coffee**

Next Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November is our second Curriculum and Coffee morning for parents with a child in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Our first meeting in October was excellent- we hope to see lots of you next week.