

Galleywood Infant School

Sunday 17th December 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

At this time of year, we all have very busy calendars, so a few well-deserved “thank you” messages for recent events and some information and reminders for next week!



Our Christmas Fair was such a lovely event last Friday evening. Many hours of work from the GIPA team and their friends and families made the hall, classrooms and Santa’s grotto look sparkly and festive. I know lots of Christmas trees around Galleywood are now decorated with mini gingerbread people, and I’m sure many families will enjoy making (and eating) the marshmallow snowmen- what a brilliant idea! The range of raffle prizes was spectacular this year and I hope there are some happy surprises in store when you open gifts from the Secret Wrapping Room on Christmas Day!

Thank you to everyone for supporting us for a fun and festive evening, and for all the work that went into Elfridges earlier in the week. Our special thanks to the brilliant GIPA committee who make such events possible for children at this school.



We will let you know how much was raised once all expenses have been submitted.

Calling All Angels

An enormous thank you to everyone, children, parents, staff, governors, families and former staff who contributed in any way to our performances of Calling all Angels. We look forward to our very warm, appreciative audiences and a hall full of excited children – the week is special every year, a memory we hope your child will keep for many years and we love sharing this with you. Thank you for all the lovely comments- they really do keep tired staff going!



We do not ask you to pay for tickets, but love the chance for our school community to do something special for others and think carefully each year about which charities to support with exit collections. This year we are supporting **Empower the Gambia**, a small charity who enable children to attend schools in rural Africa, and with whom Mrs Read has been working for several years. We are also supporting the amazing work of **Brain Tumour Research** in memory of our lovely Mr Jonathan, who sadly passed away in December 2021.

If, like me, you rarely carry cash, you are most welcome to make a small donation via Parent Pay or to bring/send your donation to the school office to be added to the total. We will of course notify you of the amount we raise, and know both charities are hugely appreciative of your donations. Thank you.

Orders for photos close at the end of the day on Monday to allow time for printing and delivery!

Christmas lights

When Mr Jonathan, our site manager, died after a short illness in December 2021, a very good friend to our school Peter Seabrook suggested that we should decorate a tree with white lights each December in Jon's memory. Peter passed away shortly afterwards in January 2022 aged 86, and the lights are for both Jon and Peter, missed by us all.



Christmas parties are being planned for all classes on the afternoon of Tuesday 19th December. Families are not asked to provide any food for the party as these take place just after lunchtime.

Children are invited to bring some party clothes in a bag that morning to change into at 1:15 before the fun and games begin!



Christmas Carol Service

This year children in Year1 and Year 2 will be walking to St Michael's Church on Galleywood Common to take part in a Christmas Carol Service led by Rev David Cattle. David has invited us to St Michael's Church for a short service on **Wednesday 20th December at 10am**. Offers of help to accompany the walk will be welcomed- we will leave school soon after 9:30 and parents who wish to walk with us are welcome to wait in the staffroom until we leave. Families are welcome to join us for the service, which will last 30-40 mins. There is some parking near the church and along the approach road.

Children in Foxes and Badgers classes will not take part in the church service due to the length of the walk, and our past experience about how tired our youngest children get by the end of their first term. David will lead a special nativity assembly for Foxes and Badgers on Monday 18th December.

We are delighted that once again Lesley Bond and her kitchen team have agreed to serve our wonderful Christmas dinner on **Wednesday 20th December** the last day of term- such a lovely occasion when everyone works and eats together as close to Christmas as possible! Children and staff are invited to **wear something Christmassy or sparkly on Wednesday, jumpers, hats, outfits, whatever you choose!**



We will have a lovely colourful Carol Service and the hall and classrooms will be fun and festive all day.

PE days

There will be no PE for Foundation Stage on Monday 18th or Yr1 classes Tuesday 19th due to special assemblies and our parties.

PE activities on Wednesday afternoon for Year 2 classes will be fun activities led by Premier Sport, no need for active wear. New PE days for the spring term will be advised as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to a wonderful three days with your children to end this long autumn term and celebrate Christmas!

