



Dear Parents and Carers,

We all enjoyed celebrating World Book Day on Friday- thank you for the effort you put in with costumes, pyjamas, and supporting your child to make a model or pictures linked to a favourite story. They were spectacular and so varied! Each class loved spending time in the hall looking at the entries and hearing about the children's choices.



Our focus on bedtime stories was a very important choice for us- research as well as anecdotal evidence shows time and time again how much children gain from having stories read aloud to them, and bedtime can be a cosy, relaxing time to enjoy favourite books together. We know that families have different routines and some people will find it easier to read stories at another time of the day. We hope many parents have happy memories of bedtime stories when they were children and remember what a precious time it can be.



On Friday every child received a World Book Day voucher, which can be exchanged for one of the specially written World Book Day books, or can be used as £1 towards a different book of your choice. The vouchers are valid until 31st March, the first weekend of the Easter holiday. Please search online for World Book Day to find out more about the titles you can choose from!



Beat the Street

We hope you are enjoying collecting points by walking or scooting between the Beat the Street boxes. Our school got off to a great start with over 200 people signed up to collect points- we need some dry weather to enable families to get out and about in the evenings or weekends as well as collecting points on the way to school. You can see on the app how well we are doing.



Galleywood Parish Council competition

Galleywood Parish Council have asked us to notify families about a photography competition which is open to children, teenagers and adults.

Galleywood Parish Council are running a competition for residents to send in a photo that represents 'My Galleywood'. The winners will be announced at the Annual Parish Meeting on 11th April at the Keene Hall. Age categories: 0-11, 11-17 and over 18s. A prize will be awarded to the winner of each category. Please send you entries to Admin@galleywoodparishcouncil.gov.uk by 25th March 2024.



Galleywood Parish Council would also love some volunteers to help with their Community Litter Pick on Saturday 23rd March.

Help to keep Galleywood tidy!



Comic Relief and Wear a Hat day!

The children love to receive letters and certificates of thanks and recognition of the fundraising we do for charities. So far this year we have raised money for Chelmsford Food Bank, the Royal British Legion, Children in Need and our two Christmas charities Brain Tumour research and Empower the Gambia.



This week the nation will be wearing red noses for Comic Relief and we would like to support this important collective fundraising by inviting children to bring a donation and wear something red, or wear something funny!



We are inviting children to wear non-uniform to include something red, or something silly such as a red nose, a headband, a wig or even odd socks. What can you think of that will make us all laugh? We love sharing jokes at Galleywood Infant School- could your child learn a favourite joke to share on Friday in their classroom as part of Comic Relief?



On the last day of this term Brain Tumour research are holding their annual fundraising event "Wear a Hat day". We hope children, staff and even parents will wear a hat (and non-uniform) donating a pound or two for brain tumour research in memory of Jon Tee, our site manager who passed away of this cruel disease. It can be a home-made hat or crown, a silly hat or maybe even a sunhat!



Birthday cards

It is a while since I asked for donations of birthday cards- as you know we “recycle” cards so that we can wish everyone in our school, children and staff, a happy birthday as part of our Friday assemblies. If you have any suitable cards for girls and boys aged 5-7yrs or for members of staff I would be very pleased to receive them. Thank you.



GIPA balloon race

160 balloons have been launched and the race is underway! Don't forget you can check the leader board and watch the balloons at any time from www.balloonrace.net/giss.

The race finishes at 12noon on Friday 22nd March. Good luck!

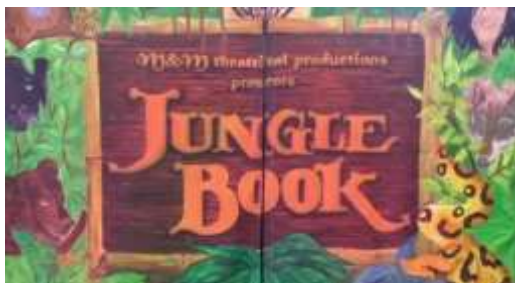


Easter service

On Tuesday 26th March we will all be walking to St Michael's Church on Galleywood Common for an Easter service led by Rev David Cattle. Parents and carers wishing to join us for the service at 10am are very welcome to meet us there, or to accompany the classes and walk with us. Classes will leave school from 9:30am. Please let us know if you are able to walk with us. All the children will be singing and will receive a palm cross to bring home.

The Jungle Book

This Friday we are once again welcoming M&M productions to Galleywood Infant School. M&M productions have visited Galleywood five times, bringing different shows each time. The sets are always complex, the costumes colourful and dramatic and the actors very accomplished at portraying a range of characters.



It is amazing for the children to see live theatre in school and to hear and see the way that actors use their voices, actions, costumes and set changes to tell a story.

This year we have asked families for a one off or staged donation to cover the cost of extra experiences including this theatre visit, trips to Hyde Hall in the summer term and the Fire of London day for Yr1 and Yr2. These are the experiences that make learning real and memorable. Please check that you have made your contribution through Parent Pay as we would like to re-book M&M Productions for 2025, but will not be able to do so if we cannot cover costs. Thank you.

Thank you and farewell

At the January meeting of our governing body, June Gould announced her decision to step down as Chair after a period of 6 years as a Local Authority Governor. June has been an excellent chair, a brilliant advocate for the school, a sounding board for the staff team when new ideas or initiatives are floated, always challenging us by asking, “how will that benefit the children?” or “what difference will it make for the children?”. June knows the importance of Early Years and Key stage one to underpin all that follows and saw her role as being a champion for every child, working closely with us to ensure that children at Galleywood Infant School get the very best start to their school lives. June would regularly add her thanks and congratulations to the children after a performance and as a former headteacher June appreciated and supported the work that our staff team put into every aspect of school life.

We shall miss her and would like to thank her for the many, many hours she has given to the school, and especially to the children, hearing children read, visiting classrooms, helping in Early Years classrooms,



meeting with inspectors and school advisers, meeting with the school council and taking part in interview panels to appoint new staff.

I know June will continue to fill her days with a wide range of activities, including lots of time with her five grandchildren. We plan to invite June back at the end of this term for a special farewell.

We would also like to express our sincere thanks and best wishes to Rob McIlvride, who served as a parent governor when his son was a pupil here, and then continued as a co-opted governor until January 2024. Rob took a passionate interest in the development of maths, having loved maths when he was in school and wanting this positive experience for every child at Galleywood. Rob worked closely with Laura Ray, visiting classrooms, looking at maths books, hearing about new initiatives and talking to children about their enjoyment of maths. Rob has been a great friend to the school, fitting visits to classrooms and his role as chair of our Pay and Personnel Committee around his shift work. We are very grateful to him for giving his time to support our school- thank you, Rob!



Both June and Rob were governors through the Covid period, taking part in governing body meetings via Zoom and then delighting in the process of fully re-opening the school and resuming governor visits!

Dates for the remainder of this term

Thursday 14 th March	Second Foundation Stage parent lunch
Thur 14 th and Thur 21 st March	Two remaining teacher led clubs for this term
Friday 15 th March	Comic Relief- wear red, or wear something funny!
Friday 15 th March	Reports home for all children in Yr1 and Yr2
Friday 15 th March	The Jungle Book- M&M Productions
Monday 18 th March	Full Governing Body meeting 6:30pm
Tuesday 19 th March	Third Foundation Stage parent lunch
Mon 25 th and Tue 26 th March	Parent Consultations for Yr1 and Yr2
Tuesday 26 th March	Easter service at St Michael's Church, 10-10:30am
Wednesday 27 th March	GIPA Easter activities for all classes
Wednesday 27 th March	Easter lunch for all children
Thursday 28 th March	Wear a Hat day for Brain Tumour Research
Thursday 28 th March	School closes for the Easter break (re-opens Mon 15 th April)