

Galleywood Infant School

Tuesday 3rd December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that this time next week we will be getting ready for our first performance of Don't be Afraid! There is certainly a lot to do in a week.

We hope that by now you have received a slip of paper letting you know your child's part in the whole school production and listing any costume items that we would like parents to provide. If you do not have the item then please let the class teachers know as soon as possible- we have a small stock of costumes in school.

Tickets for our 3 performances will come home in book bags later on this week. We hope you love the songs as much as we do!



It is important that audiences on all three dates enjoy the same wonderful performance with the same dances, speakers and musicians. We ask **all children** to come back to school at 5:30pm on Thursday evening for the sparkly final performance- the play will begin at 6pm and be finished by approx. 6:50pm. Thank you.

Help needed please!

We would like our Christmas presentation to sparkle in every way, which inevitably involves glue and glitter. If you can help us make the headbands on **Thursday 5th December** your time and support would be very much appreciated from 1:15-3:15 in the library. I shall provide tea, coffee and biscuits- of course younger siblings are welcome to come with you. Please let us know: admin@galleywood.essex.sch.uk or sarahmanning@galleywood.essex.sch.uk



Elfridges is happening!

Don't forget to visit Elfridges in the demountable classrooms today Tue 3rd and Wed 4th December from 3pm. As usual, there will be a range of Christmas treats and stocking fillers on sale with payment possible by cash or card.

Christmas Fayre

We have a fabulous collection of decorated filled jars and chocolate treats for our GIPA Christmas Fair on Friday 6th December from 4:30pm - thank you to everyone for your contributions!



There will be games, crafts, tattoos, hair braiding, refreshments, raffle, tombolas & of course a special visitor in his grotto! We hope to see everyone at the fair on Friday 😊

Dragon reading challenge



Many of you have supported your child in previous years to join the Essex Libraries summer holiday reading challenges. The winter challenge is similar, and starts straight after Christmas.

This year, your mission is to find the dragons who are lost around the dragon kingdom, and get them home to the castle before they get too cold! Complete six fun challenges from a choice of twelve. They include a range of cool things to read, make, and do!

Collect all six dragon stickers to 'find' them and complete the challenge! Plus, get a certificate and prize when you finish, and enter our big prize draw, where you can win amazing prizes like tablets, arts and crafts packs, book tokens, and toy dragons!

To sign up, visit your [local library](#) and collect your challenge booklet.

The challenge starts on **2 January** and runs through to the **end of the February half term on 22 February**. The challenge is aimed at children aged 0 to 12.

[Watch our Winter Reading Challenge video with your kids!](#)

Galleywood Library is open as follows:

- Monday - Closed
- Tuesday - 2pm to 5:30pm
- Wednesday - Closed
- Thursday - Closed
- Friday - 9am to 5:30pm
- Saturday - 9am to 5pm



Our Christmas post-box has emerged from its dusty hiding place! If children wish to bring cards for their friends, they can be posted each day for the next 2 weeks in the box near the office. Please ensure the child's name and class is written clearly so that our Year 2 post people can sort the mail and make deliveries to every classroom!

I love seeing parents and staff wearing their Christmas jumpers, and several children chose to wear one for non-uniform day on Friday. On the last day of term, Friday 20th December, we have our whole school Christmas Diner and would love everyone to look festive wearing Santa hats, sparkles and something Christmassy!





Christmas parties are being planned for all classes on the afternoon of Thursday 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!

Exit collection and Kindness Project

We have been talking to the children in assemblies about doing things for others at Christmas time, cheering others and helping people who might be lonely or unwell to share in the excitement the children feel looking forward to Christmas with their families.

We do not charge visitors to come to our Christmas presentation but ask for donations to our exit collection, which is usually shared between two charities. Four years ago we lost Jon Tee, who was site manager at Galleywood Infant School and St Michael's to an aggressive brain tumour, and since that time both schools have used different events through the year in his memory to support the Brain Tumour Charity, nominated by his parents.



Sue Read, former Deputy Headteacher at Galleywood and known to many of you always gives her time freely to play the piano for our performances and we know we couldn't manage without her!



Since retiring 10 years ago Sue has worked extensively with a small charity called Empower the Gambia, visiting small rural schools, collecting resources for them, setting up libraries and working with others in the UK to raise much needed funding to enable children to attend school. The money we donate goes directly to families and is used for uniform, school books, toothbrushes and shoes. Sue is going again in January and will lead an assembly for our children with lots of photos and stories when she returns.

Please bring some cash with you, or use the link on parent pay so that we can make generous donations to each of these charities on behalf of Galleywood Infant School families. Thank you.



The Kindness Project first approached our school 3 years ago, asking whether our children would be able to make some cards and write some messages to pop into gift bags for people who are alone or in hospital at Christmas. Some children in Year 2 have made cards in school and are writing personal messages for whoever receives them. If your child enjoys art and craft activities and would like to make a card at home, I would be delighted to add to our pile of cards with messages, which Kelly Coombs from the Essex Wellbeing Service will collect on Friday 13th December. Yr2 children are welcome to make another one!