Galleywood Infant School

Friday 11th April

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all enjoying some lovely spring sunshine in Essex or further afield!



Congratulations to Lizzie and Paul Sayers on the safe (and speedy!) arrival of Emily Sayers on Wednesday 26th March.

We send our best wishes to Lizzie, Paul and James, and look forward to meeting Emily soon when Lizzie pops in to see the Hedgehogs children.



The last couple of weeks of the spring term were very busy, and time ran away with us. I just wanted to share a few highlights that celebrate the many experiences your children enjoy at school.

<u>The Railway Children</u>

M&M Productions visited us again, this time bringing live theatre in the form of The Railway Children. The four actors unloaded and built a complicated rotating set, then performed a number of roles to tell the classic tale, which as usual held the children's attention for an hour.

Afterwards in a workshop session the Year 2 classes learned about some of the special effects. William was curious to know how the train moved, and was shown an overhead track on the back of the set where the engine and carriage rolled slowly from right to left accompanied by sound effects. We have rebooked for next March, when the company are touring with a new, exciting show still in production.



Reading Challenge

We are thrilled with the response to the reading challenge and hope your children have enjoyed some of the activities, inspiring them to read some favourite books as well as some new ones.





The total received to date is £1,735! This will enable us to buy some new sets of book club books, which all children will read in Year 2, as well as new titles to support our summer term learning, new additions for the school library and for classroom book boxes.

Our school team works very hard alongside families to ensure that all children build the phonic skills they need to read; the joy of reading is for your child to become engrossed in books they love, to share and recommend them to friends and to find new authors and new interests to follow.

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to this wonderful total- we will spend every pound carefully! Any further sponsor money will still be welcomed; as planned we have already ordered books for children in all year groups to enjoy in the summer term.






Easter Service

On Tuesday 1st April we had a glorious sunny morning to walk to St Michael's Church on the Common for our Easter Service. Children from Year 2 led a parade around the church carrying their palm crosses, they read passages of text and prayers as part of the service.



Children in Owls and Hedgehogs classes had made decorated crosses, which we displayed on the pillars for everyone to enjoy. There was standing room only by the time the service started!

Thank you to everyone who walked with us and joined us for the service. Our thanks too to Rev David Cattle and to the team at St Michael's Church, who always make us so welcome.

Replacement Heating

If you have passed the school this week and wondered about all the activity on site, the long-awaited project has begun to replace our two elderly gas boilers with an air source heat pump. Whilst classrooms are empty, engineers have been removing all radiators and pipe work from the school building.

The project is due to run through the summer term and is planned to be completed by the end of July. Disruption to learning should be minimal as the contractors make use of light evenings to work from 4pm until late each day. For the summer term the contractors' secure compounds mean reduced parking on the school site. We look forward to moving closer towards the aim of becoming a carbon neutral building, fully utilising the output from our solar panels.

Toy Making Workshops

It was lovely to welcome so many visitors to our workshops, celebrating half a term of learning about how toys have changed over time. Children in Year 2 assembled an acrobat and sewed a glove puppet, whilst children in EYFS and Yr1 used a range of materials to make a sock puppet matching their own design, as well as exploring different shadow puppet effects. I saw lots of parents enjoying the cup and ball challenge, which the Owls and Hedgehogs were proud to share!






Easter Fun

We had fun this week with Easter crafts, Easter bingo and Easter cooking! Thank you to GIPA for the Easter egg they gave to every child- I wonder if any will last until Easter….?







Children in Foxes and Badgers classes followed instructions to make and decorate Easter nests!





Balanceability

Foxes and Badgers children, as well as Yr1 Otters group, had lots of fun on the balance bikes we borrowed on 25th March. This was arranged through the Chelmsford Sports Partnership by Mrs Sayers.





WOW Walk to school challenge

Children in all classes are enjoying logging their journeys to school each day on the Travel Tracker. On Friday 2nd May we will look again at the tracker outcomes and award badges to every child who has been able to walk, scoot, cycle or "park and stride" to get some physical activity and fresh air on the way to school.



After School

We are delighted to make our outdoor play equipment including the football area and pirate ship available for families to stay and play, meet others and enjoy warm afternoons outdoors. However, it is parents' or grandparents' responsibility to remain close by and ensure that children are carefully supervised.

Riding bikes and scooters on the playground is not safe, even after school, and please keep to the grassy areas on a Monday and Friday afternoon for Mrs Gowers to run her after school clubs. Thank you.



Crossing Patrol

It was lovely to welcome Steve Bullman to our Friday Celebration Assembly, where we gave him a gardening gift card, Easter Egg and cards from the children and staff to wish him a very happy and healthy retirement. We shall miss his cheery smile, whatever the weather!

Please be aware that there may be some days or weeks without a crossing patrol along Barnard Road as recruitment and training tales place.

GIPA news

GIPA continue to be very active organising events and activities that add to your child's school life. This year they are aiming to raise money to replace our much-loved timber trim trail, installed in 2008, as well as raising funds for new books, for the recent theatre performance, and towards our Yr2 leavers' event in July. Fundraising to date has been very successful with further events planned this summer!



Look out for more details of these upcoming summer events:

- Break the Rules Day on Thursday 1st May, to coincide with St Michael's Junior School
- Next GIPA Committee meeting- everyone welcome, 1st May at 7:30pm
- School Disco on Friday 16th May from 3:30-5pm with DJ John
- Mr Frostie's Magic Show on Friday 6th June from 3:30-5pm

- Galleyfest on Saturday 21st June, 11:30-3pm
- Year 2 Leavers' party with Skittleman on Tuesday 15th July 3:30-5pm

PE days

Please note that the PE days for April and May are as follows:

Year 2 classes: Outdoor PE with Mrs Gowers on Mondays, but due to Bank Holidays also on **Tuesday 22nd April and Tuesday 6th May;** also dance with Miss Katie on Thursdays

Year 1 classes: Gymnastics on Wednesdays and outdoor PE with Mrs Gowers on Fridays

Early Years classes: PE on Tuesdays and Forest Fun on Wednesdays.