Galleywood Infant School

Monday 17th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Galleywood Readathon

We hope that you and your child are enjoying the reading challenges set- we would love to receive some more photographs for our display, especially if you manage to build a den or cosy space for reading, and if you think of an unusual place to read a book!



We are hoping to receive your sponsor money by Friday 28th March so that we can celebrate everyone's efforts and so that Mrs Needham can order new books from our wish list for us all to enjoy in the summer term! Thank you for your support.



Essex Roadshow Events

There are two Essex Roadshow events that might be of interest to families. The purpose of these is to gather together professionals and agencies who can help and support, giving parents the opportunity to ask questions and perhaps find useful contact information.

The Essex Local Offer Roadshows for all Schools

The Essex Local Offer Roadshows are back! These are for parents/carers to visit and ask questions about SEND. Dates are:

- Wednesday 19 March 2025 – Colchester
- Tuesday 25 March 2025 – Chelmsford

The morning marketplace is for parents/carers of children with SEND aged 0 to 25. The afternoon marketplace has an early years focus. No booking is needed, just drop in. Please share with families you support.

The Mid- Essex Start Well Early Years Roadshow

The Early Years Roadshow is a new initiative to support with school readiness. The Chelmsford area roadshow is being held at our school, but is for any family with a child due to start school in the Chelmsford or mid-Essex area in September 2025.

These FREE events have been organised in partnership between local schools and health and care partners as an opportunity for parents & carers across Braintree, Maldon & Chelmsford to prepare for this exciting time!

Please see poster attached to newsletter.



Easter service

On Tuesday 1st April 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.

Red Nose Day



This week the nation will be wearing red noses for the 40th anniversary of the launch of Comic Relief. We would like to support this important collective fundraising by inviting children to bring a donation of 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? We will collect donations of £1 or £2 in each classroom and count these so that we can share the total in Friday assembly.

The Railway Children



This Friday we are once again welcoming M&M productions to Galleywood Infant School. M&M productions have visited Galleywood six 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.

After the performance Year 2 classes are able to meet the cast, ask questions and have a little insight into the special effects and puppetry involved.

In previous years we have asked families to contribute towards this experience, but in order to keep the annual parent contributions affordable, GIPA have this year agreed to fund the morning. I am so grateful for this, as it is increasingly difficult to fund these exciting events that add so much to children's school experience. Thank you, GIPA!

The WOW Walk to School Challenge



Galleywood Infant School are launching the WOW Walk to School Challenge! Walk, scoot or cycle all or part of the way to school at least once each week to earn badges. How many can you collect?

We held an assembly in school this afternoon, 17th March, when Joanne Page from WOW visited to explain the challenge. Daily tracking will launch next Monday 24th March, giving people who usually drive to school a few days to find somewhere suitable to "park and stride". Please see separate letter with details.

We hope your children are excited to take part and motivated to win their first badge!

GIPA news

GIPA have held two successful events since half term- amazing! Mr Frostie entertained over 100 children with his magic tricks on 28th February, and on Friday we held another cushion club with pizza and popcorn, enjoyed by nearly 70 children.



On Friday 28th March GIPA will be holding a Quiz night and people are invited to bring drinks and nibbles for a 7:30pm start. You can either enter as a team of up to 8 people, or let us know on the night and we will combine smaller groups or pairs of people into teams. We hope you can join us!

Santa's wrapping room is always a great success at Christmas and a favourite with the children, who love to select a gift, write a label and wrap it in secret. This year for the first time GIPA are organising this for Mother's Day, and have ordered a selection of gifts for children to choose and wrap. If you would like your child to do this, please pay via Parent Pay in the usual way, or send £2 in a named envelope to the school office. Members of the GIPA committee will set up a secret wrapping room in the hall on Friday 28th March, when children can browse and make their selections!



Galleywood Parish Council have asked us to share the following information with parents:

Community Speed Watch

Would you like to join a Community Speed Watch, which is delivered by volunteers within their own communities aiming to improve road safety.

Volunteers are trained by Safer Essex Road, including roadside training, provided with equipment and supported by a Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator and Essex Police.

Becoming part of Community Speed Watch

Volunteers monitor speed of passing vehicles with handheld devices which are recorded and passed to Essex Police to take further action from letters to additional police enforcement.

The benefits of Community Speed Watch include:

- The opportunity for residents to increase road safety in their area, and support activities to reduce road traffic collisions and injuries.
- Enhancing the role of community members as volunteers and developing better links with the community.
- As Community Speed Watch volunteers are highly visible and make use of a speed detection device, it is usually clear to vehicle drivers their speed is being monitored. This may be enough deterrent for many motorists to slow down.
- The 'community' element of Community Speed Watch could have a more positive effect on some vehicle driver's attitudes compared to engineering schemes.
- The letters vehicle drivers receive as a result of exceeding the speed limit may make them continue to reduce their speeds at all times.

Interests in joining a Community Speed Watch group, should be emailed to:
community.speedwatch@essex-fire.gov.uk

Further information can be found here Community Speed Watch - saferessexroads.org

The Parish council are also looking for families to volunteer with litter picking on 5th April:



Galleywood Parish Council would also love some volunteers to help with their Community Litter Pick on Saturday 5th April.

Help to keep Galleywood tidy!



<u>Diary dates for the remaining 3 weeks of the spring term:</u>

Wed 19th/Thur 20th March	Parent consultations for Squirrels class
Thursday 20th March	Essex Start Well Roadshow in the hall and Early Years classrooms 6-7:30pm, for parents of children due to start school in Sept 2025.
Friday 21st March	M&M Theatre production of The Railway Children 9:30am
Friday 21st March	Red Nose Day- wear something red and bring a donation for Comic Relief
Friday 21st March	Reports home for all children in Year 1 and Year 2
Monday 24th March	Year 2 Toy Making Workshop, 2:15-3:15pm
Tuesday 25th March	Year 1 Toy Making Workshop, 2:15-3:15pm
Tuesday 25th March	Yr 2 Parent Lunch, 12noon
Friday 28th March	Secret wrapping room gifts for Mother's Day, 1:30 onwards, £2 per child
Friday 28th March	GIPA Quiz night, tickets £5, available from the school office
Mon 31st/Tue 1st April	Parent Consultations for children in Rabbits, Owls and Hedgehogs
Tuesday 1st April	Easter Service, St Michael's Church, 10am
Tuesday 1st April	Easter lunch for all children, 12noon
Wed 3rd/Thur 4th April	Easter games and activities in school
Thursday 3rd April	GIPA Committee meeting, 7:30pm, in school (all welcome)
Friday 4th April	Spring term ends at 3:15pm