Galleywood Infant School,

Tuesday 14th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Harvest Collection

In recent years we have supported causes near to home with our annual harvest projects, including the Chelmsford homeless shelter and the local foodbank. Chelmsford Foodbank relies on donations from individuals as well as from supermarkets, and from time to time helps our families.



We welcome donations of items from the flier that was emailed on Friday, to be brought to the hall any day this week and sorted by our newly elected School Council! We always receive very grateful thanks from the volunteers at the Foodbank unpacking our boxes.
Please support if you can. Thank you.

Open mornings for September 2026 admission



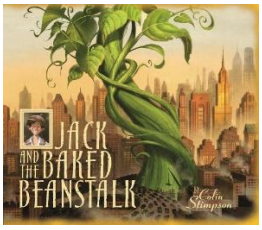
Parents with a child due to start school in September 2026 will be able to make an application via www.Essex.gov.uk between 10th November 2025 and 15th January 2026. We offer two open mornings, this year on **Wednesday 15th October, Tuesday 11th November between 9:30-11am.**

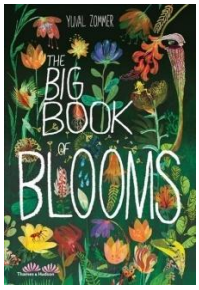
This year we are also offering an open evening on **Wed 12th November, 6-7pm.** Parents do not need to book for these sessions, but there are details on our website of several additional small group tours, which parents are able to book via email. You are welcome to bring pre-school children or younger siblings with you if you wish.

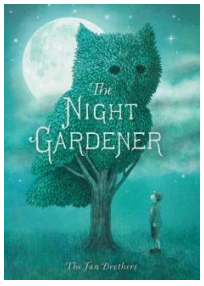
For many years there has been a waiting list for places at our school; however, a combination of factors including the lower birth rate, no local building coupled with families continuing to live in Galleywood long after their children have grown up means that some of our classes are not full.
We are very proud of our school, our brilliant team, our unique curriculum and amazing school grounds. We would love as many visitors as possible to hear your children talking enthusiastically about their learning and all aspects of school life on our Open Mornings and tours. Please spread the word about our open days and tours to family members, friends and anyone you know who will be looking for a school place next year. Thank you.

Our Curriculum for 2025-26

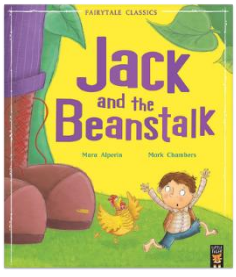
There is a lot of information on our school website about the 6 learning themes planned for this year, starting with the question, How does your garden grow? and inspired by some wonderful texts, including:











We are looking forward to welcoming visitors to every classroom on **Friday 17th October at 2:30pm,** when your child and the class will share some of their learning from this half term.

GIPA news

Our amazing parents' association are already busy planning a range of activities for 2025-26.

The first meeting for this year took place on Tuesday 30th Sept, and there is a follow up meeting this evening, 14th October at 7:30pm to focus on plans for our Christmas Fair- everyone welcome, please come and get involved.

Cushion Club on Friday was very well supported- thank you to everyone who helped with the event.

The children and staff are excited that fund-raising for our new Trim Trail has been successful and the order has been placed! Installation is due to begin on 24th November, and as the trim trail has safety surfacing the children will be able to have fun climbing and balancing on the equipment throughout the winter months. This is an artist's impression of the new trim trail:



Christmas Fundraiser

Children in all classes have designed a Christmas picture; these have been sent off by GIPA and families will have the opportunity to buy Christmas cards, gift tags, mugs, magnets and a range of other items displaying your child's design.



After school play!

We love to see your children, together with older and younger siblings, enjoying our school grounds and wonderful outdoor play equipment. However, we ask parents to please supervise children properly, ensure you know where they are and remember that the gates are open at this time with access onto Barnard Road.

Please show your child our "no bikes and scooters" signs- we cannot allow children to ride bikes and scooters on the playground. I know how tempting this is with a big open space, but we have learned from past experience that accidents happen very quickly and we don't want anyone getting hurt. Thank you



After school clubs

There are still some spaces on a Monday for multi-sports and on Friday for tennis. The clubs are led by our school PE coaches who know the children well and run from 3:15-4:15pm. Please contact the office for more information.

Parent Consultations

We are looking forward to sharing your child's work when we have our autumn parent consultations on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st October between 3:30-6pm. Parents should have received an electronic link to sign up for a day and time that is convenient. Our office team have tried hard to accommodate your choices and to ensure siblings are offered times close together. Please note: appointments for the first hour on Monday 20th October will be in classrooms as gymnastics club will be taking place in the hall. Thank you.

Carol Services

Our Christmas Carol service at the church will be on Tuesday 16th Dec at 10am. Children in Yr1 and Yr2 will walk up to St Michael's church. Family members are welcome to walk with us, or join us at the church.



Early Years classes will have their own short nativity service in school at 2:30pm led by Rev David Cattle, vicar at St Michael's.

Contacting school

We know that for some parents it is not easy to get into school and speak with us and even when you are here the drop off/ pick up times are very busy. We don't want parents or children to be worried about any aspect of school, so we welcome the chance to talk about any concerns or questions at an early stage.

If you request a phone call, staff members are usually able to call you at the end of the school day or sometimes during a lunch break if something is urgent.

If you email admin@galleywood.essex.sch.uk or for any sensitive or confidential matters sarahmanning@galleywood.essex.sch.uk we will forward the email to your child's class teacher, or to Kelly Fennell, SENCo.

There will usually be a member of staff in school by 7:30am and often staff are here until 6pm, although this varies a little from day to day. We endeavour to take phone calls and respond to queries promptly, but need to protect family time for all members of staff and ask you to understand that emails sent in the evening or over the weekend will usually receive a response the next working day. Thank you.