Galleywood Infant School

Wednesday 21st January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Christmas break seems a distant memory as we have been back in school for 2 busy weeks. We send best wishes for a wonderful 2026 to everyone.

Our new whole school learning theme for this half term is Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak, a book parents might remember from their own childhood. We have enjoyed seeing a variety of homework tasks with the title "wild", including some amazing models, artwork, fact finding and writing about a whole range of wild animals. We continue to welcome new or additional contributions if your child is inspired to follow up their classroom learning 😊





If you would like details of the planned learning for this half term check the curriculum tab on our website.

Last Thursday Miss Katie led a Wild Things dance sessions for all classes, telling the complete story to music. The children's focus and concentration as they take part in Katie's choreographed dances is fascinating to watch. Thank you to Katie for all that she adds to children's experiences at school.

We have planned some afternoons in February when the children would love to show you some "Wild Thing" learning, including poems, stories, art work and maybe a dance!

- Foxes and Badgers: Thursday 5th February 2:30-3pm
- Rabbits and Squirrels: Tuesday 10th February 2:30-3pm
- Owls and Hedgehogs: Friday 13th February 2:30-3pm



<u>Essex Libraries winter reading challenge</u>

Many families will be familiar with the Summer Holiday reading challenges that follow a different theme each year, encouraging children to visit their local libraries, choose and enjoy books with the support of their families and them collecting stickers, badges or a medal for talking with library staff about their books.

The winter challenge is similar and runs until the end of the spring half term week. There is plenty of time to get started as you can select several books at each visit. Library opening times as follows:

Galleywood Library

Tuesday 2-5:30pm

Friday 9am-5:30pm

Saturday 9am-5pm

Great Baddow library

Monday 9am-7pm

Wednesday 9am-5:30pm

Thursday 2-5:30pm

Saturday 9am-5pm

Saturday 10 January to Sunday 22 February



These are the characters you will meet at the library! Complete 6 fun challenges and collect stickers for each one- just go to Galleywood Library to join in!

https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/winter-reading-challenge-2026

Bulb Planting

Chelmsford City Life have published some pictures of school council members from Galleywood Infant School and St Michael's planting bulbs near the library. Look out for crocus bulbs peeping out of the soil this spring!





Chelmsford school children help nature to thrive this winter | City Life

Pets as Therapy

On Monday we were visited by Henry the Dachshund, accompanied by his owners Corinne and Peter, and by Steve Kaser from Pets as Therapy. Corinne and Peter have completed a training programme with Henry, and already take Henry to Anglia Ruskin University and to Stansted Airport for regular visits. I am thrilled that Corinne and Peter are volunteering their time to bring Henry to school for an afternoon each week so that children can meet him, read to him and enjoy being around a calm, friendly dog. Pets as Therapy dogs provide comfort, sometimes motivate shy or anxious children to talk and help children to develop their confidence. Corinne or Peter will be with Henry at all times and will be based in our school library. I hope to have some photos to share soon of Henry enjoying stories!

World Book Day



To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5th March we are inviting children (and staff) to dress as a book or story character if they wish. We will have a day of book related activities- more details to follow.

Just before half term your child will receive a £1 World Book Day voucher, which can be exchanged for one of the £1 books that are published every year to celebrate the event. You can also visit a bookshop and use the £1 voucher until Friday 13th March towards the cost of any book.

For Parents - Playstation Family App

The Playstation Family App came out in Sept 2025 and it is a great way to help parents set up and manage their children's Gaming experience. Features include:

- Manage playtime
- Activity report
- Visibility into what children are playing
- Approving playtime requests.

On this web page you will find detailed instructions to guide you through setting up a child account, get notified what game your child is playing in real time, approve or decline a request for extra playtime, apply content filters, privacy settings and more.

More information can be found at https://blog.playstation.com/2025/09/10/announcing-playstation-family-app-for-parental-controls-and-family-management/

Dates for this term

Thurs 22nd January	9-10am	Curriculum and Coffee session 3, parents of children in EYFS
Thurs 5th February	2:30-3pm	Foxes and Badgers "Wild Things" work sharing in classrooms
Fri 6th February	5:30-7pm	Cushion Club, GIPA event, tickets on Parent Pay
Mon 9th February	3:30-6pm	Early Years Parent Consultations
Tue 10th February	2:30-3pm	Year 2 "Wild Things" work sharing in classrooms
Tue 10th February	3:30-6pm	Early Years Parent Consultations
Fri 13th February	2:30-3pm	Year 1 "Wild Things" work sharing in classrooms
Monday 16th-Friday 20th February		School closed for half term
Mon 23rd February	School opens for Spring 2	
Tue 24th February until Friday 6th March: Selection of £1 books for sale before and after school		
Thurs 26th February	9am-12noon	Foundation Stage balance bike sessions
Thurs 5th March	World Book Day- dressing up as a book or story character	
Thurs 5th March	9-10am	Curriculum and Coffee session 4, parents of children in EYFS
Thurs 5th March	6:30-8:30pm	Full Governing Body meeting
Tue 17th March	1-3:30pm Rabbits & Squirrels to Infant Music Festival (details later this wk)	
Fri 20th March	Red Nose Day- wear something red and bring donation for Comic Relief	
Fri 20th March	M&M Productions performance of Pinocchio for all children	
Fri 20th March	Reports out for children in Year 1 and Year 2	
Mon 23rd March	3:30-6pm Yr1 and Yr2 parent consultations	
Tue 24th March	6-7:30 Early Years Roadshow, parents of children starting sch in Sept 2026	
Wed 25th March	3:30-6pm Yr1 and Yr2 parent consultations	
Thurs 26th March	10-10:30am Easter Service at St Michael's Church, everyone welcome	
Fri 27th March	10am Performance of "There's a Sunflower in my Supper!"	
Fri 27th March	3:15pm School closes for the Easter break, re-opening Mon 13th April.	