Galleywood Infant School

Friday 24th October

Dear Parents and Carers,




We have enjoyed a brilliant half term of learning with our theme How Does Your Garden Grow? It was fun to share songs, poems, art work and stories with family and friends last Friday, thank you to all of the adults who joined us.















After half term our new learning theme will be: Space, the Earth and Beyond. As part of the children's learning we have booked an inflatable planetarium, which will be in the hall all day on Wednesday 12th November.



Every class will have the chance to go inside the dome, see the solar system, stars and galaxies projected onto the top of the planetarium and learn from an expert about the wonders of space.

We are asking families for a contribution of £3 per child towards this experience- please see Parent Pay. Thank you.




In October 2022 Chelmsford Cathedral had an amazing Gaia installation, which many families visited. Now a new space themed exhibit has opened: Mars, war and peace. Luke Jerram has created another incredible artwork which is suspended from the nave, Mars, the Red Planet. It measures 6 metres in diameter and includes every valley, crater and mountain from NASA imagery.

The exhibition is open every day from 21st Oct-12th Nov, £5 per adult with children under 10 free. There is a Mars creative corner for children in the Cathedral Café.

www.chelmfordcathedral.org.uk/mars

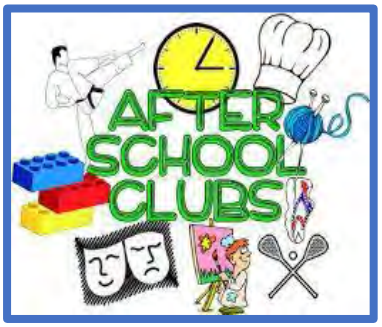
We are delighted to welcome our new Galleywood Infant School Council for 2025-26:



We were hoping to help members of Galleywood Parish Council to plant some bulbs near the library yesterday, but due to the high winds and rain this was postponed and will now take place in November.



The School Council will meet after half term to plan our projects for the year linked to Climate Change and Sustainability.




Teacher-led clubs

We will be offering children in Year 1 and Year 2 the chance to come to one of our teacher-led clubs after school. This term they will be on Tuesday evenings from 3:15-4pm, and will run for 3 weeks on Tue 11th, Tue 18th and Tue 25th November. An electronic form will be sent home on 4th November for you to make your first, second and third choices and we will notify children and parents on Friday 7th November of which club they are able to join. There is no charge for these clubs and everyone is welcome!

Winter Menu

Our new winter menu starts after half term and runs until the Easter break. The menu is available on our school website and has been sent to parents electronically. If you have questions about lunchtimes including about individual dietary needs, please speak to a member of the office team, who can arrange for you to have a chat with Lesley Bond, our school cook if required.




Harvest Collection

Thank you for contributions to Chelmsford Food Bank- a large quantity of donations arrived last Friday morning, just in time for the collection. Well done, everyone!




Happy Bags

We welcome donations of unwanted clothing for our twice-yearly Happy Bags collection. We have some extra bags if anyone would like one. The collection date is Thursday 6th November- please do not bring the bags in earlier as we do not have storage for them. Thank you.

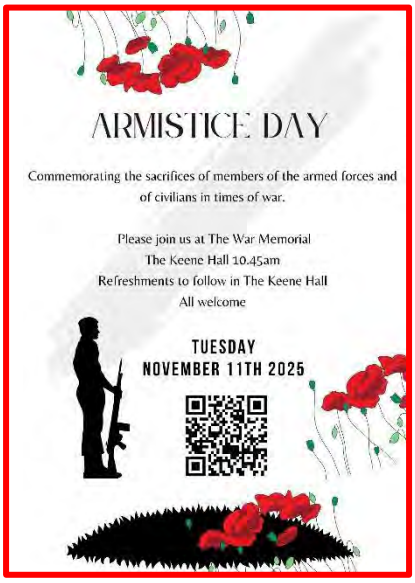
PE days for November and December

The PE days always change at half terms for children in Year 1 and Year 2 so that all children experience a range of physical activity across the term.

**Foxes and Badgers** will continue to need active wear on a Tuesday and Wednesday please.

**Owls and Hedgehogs** have gymnastics on a **Monday** and outdoor PE with Mrs Gowers on a **Friday**.

**Rabbits and Squirrels** have outdoor PE with Mrs Gowers on a **Wednesday** and dance with Mrs Wilson on **Thursday.**




Galleywood Parish Council

Galleywood Parish Council would like to notify families of their annual Remembrance Day Service, which will be held on Tuesday 11th November at 10:45am at the Keene Hall, Galleywood.

**The Royal British Legion** have once again brought poppies and related merchandise which children and families can buy, with all proceeds to help ex-service personnel and their families. There are key-rings, snap bands, bracelets and paper poppies all available for a donation of £1 or more. These will be on sale at playtimes and after school from 4th -11th November.






Poppy Appeal

Travel Tracker Walk to School Challenge!




Today many children received their badges for active travel in October. Just a reminder that our classrooms have Travel Tracker displayed as children arrive in school and children log their journey to show how they travelled.

Active travel, to encourage a healthy start to the school day and to get their badge, requires children to walk, scoot, cycle or “park and stride” at least once each week. We know mornings can be a rush for families, but if possible try to park at least 5 minutes’ walk from the school so that your child’s journey has been active!



## Getting ready for Galleywood Infant School Christmas Fair!




We want our Christmas Fair to be lots of fun for everyone- what can families do to start getting ready now?



- **Collect glass jars** ready to make our filled and decorated jars- start looking for little toys, wrapped sweets or stickers to fill the jar!
- Could you or someone in your family commit to making some **craft items for our Elfridges Christmas market**, which this year will be in one of our classrooms as part of the fair?
- Could you make some c**akes or a tray bake**, which we could cut into slices for refreshments?
- Do you have a contact, perhaps through work or socially who might be willing to donate a **raffle prize** for our Christmas raffle?
- Do you have any **unwanted gifts** that children could choose, wrap and label, helped by school staff, for members of their family in our Secret Wrapping Room? If so, please bring to the Entrance Hall from 4th Nov and place in the GIPA box. Thank you in advance 😊



This is always a very popular activity at the fair, and children are excited to keep their gifts secret until Christmas morning!

Items such as bath sets, candles, books, notebooks and pens, etc for different family members ensure that children can make a choice.

We have some ambitious plans for the evening so please ensure Friday 5th December is on your calendar. Timed tickets to visit Santa in his beautiful grotto will be available for booking from mid-November.

To make the event a brilliant success we will need parents, grandparents or older siblings to volunteer their time to set up and to help on a stall either from 5-5:45pm or from 5:45-6:30pm. Please try to help us so that everyone, including the GIPA committee, get to enjoy the Christmas fair with their children. Look out for a letter directly after half term where you can volunteer to make or supply items and to help on the day.

Just a reminder to everyone that **Monday 3rd November** is a non-pupil day for staff training and school opens for the second part of the autumn term at 8:40am on Tuesday 4th November.

We wish everyone a very enjoyable half term break.

