



## ***Gainford CE Primary School - 'Learning Together on Life's Journey'***

Head Teacher  
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Gainford C. of E. (Controlled)  
Primary School  
Low Road  
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DL2 3DR 7.1.19

### Spring Term Newsletter – January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas break after what was certainly a busy term in school. Thank you for supporting all our autumn term activities and fund-raising events during 2018. A special thank you must go to all volunteers who helped to make our Christmas Games Night a huge success!

We are continuing to offer a wide variety of after school clubs and activities so please take the time to look through our club prospectus if you are interested in your child/children attending these activities and sign them up as soon as possible.

#### **Friends of Gainford School (FOGS)**

FOGS are our small but active band of parents and carers who help to raise funds for our school which in turn supports learning in school and outside of school. Funds raised help us to buy resources, take children out of school on educational visits and can also help fund exciting visitors to school. If you would like to learn more about FOGS or join the group, please contact the school.

#### **Upcoming fundraising events**

- **Bags 2 School-** Why not have that early Spring clean and send along any bags of clothes, shoes, hats, belts handbags, bedding, curtains or towels (*not* uniform, duvets pillows or cushions) -these are being collected on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 9am.** The more our bags weigh the more money we collect for school!
- **Car Boot Sale/cake and tea stall** -Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March -further details to be issued soon.

#### **Volunteering in School**

If you are keen to volunteer in school, we will be more than happy to accommodate you; this would be subject to the completion of a DBS/police check which the school can pay for. We have invaluable volunteers in school already who help with a wide variety of activities throughout the school day, but we can never have enough!

#### **New Playtime Equipment**

A big thank you must go to Teesdale Action Partnership, Councillors George Richardson and James Rowlandson (who both donated £5,000 from their Neighbourhood Budgets) and our own pupils for their entrepreneurial fundraising skills. We managed to acquire enough funding to have new playground equipment installed in our playground. We will have the official opening this month and with further funding bids we are hoping to extend this equipment. The installation of the equipment has had a very positive impact on how active children are at playtimes and is being used to develop children's motor skills.

#### **Class 4 Residential Visit**

In March our Year 5 and 6 pupils have the opportunity to attend a residential educational visit to Lockerbie Manor where there will be plenty of opportunities to develop their independent skills as well as cooperative and leadership skills via taking part in lots of exciting outdoor and adventurous activities. The children are already looking forward to this exciting visit. The amount of organisation that goes into arranging such visits is substantial and I would like to thank Mrs. Kidd for arranging this wonderful experience for the children.

### **Payments to School**

Many parents have asked about an online payment system for paying for items such as school visits and dinner money. We are hoping to introduce an online, secure payment system for parents/carers to use. Further details about this will be issued this half term as we would like this to be in operation before the summer term.

### **Church Links**

We will continue to work closely with St. Mary's Church and Reverend Eileen Harrop when we prepare for our Easter Service on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 9.15am and you are all warmly invited to come along. We will also work collaboratively on new prayer stations for the church and 'Open the Book' sessions in school.

### **PE**

Over the course of the year your child will be receiving some additional coaching from a secondary school PE teacher in preparation for the sports festivals and competitions we take part in and these sessions will be on Tuesdays; Class 4 will have these sessions this half term.

PE kit is a white t shirt and black/blue/ grey shorts. PE kit is best kept in school all week or for the half term just in case there are changes to the sessions.

If your child has long hair, please can they make sure that it is tied back for PE sessions; we would encourage this for all school days as it can help to prevent your child from getting head lice-not the easiest things to get rid of!

### **Swimming**

Mr Martin's class will be swimming every Monday afternoon this term for ten weeks starting on the 14<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Jewellery**

We discourage the wearing of any type of jewellery for safety reasons but if ears have recently been pierced small studs are acceptable.

### **School Meals**

All infant children in Reception and Class 2 receive a free school meal. The cost of a school meal is £2.05 for juniors and £2.46 for pre-school (as this is not VAT free).

Natalie and Sarah, in our school kitchen, provide delicious meals. You can pay for meals weekly, monthly or termly by cash, cheque (payable to Durham County Council) or you can transfer money direct to our school account if this is easier for you to do- please contact Sheila in the office if you would like to do this.

### **School Day**

Just a reminder that the school day starts at **8.55am**. Your child should arrive at school no earlier than **8.45am** as there will be no supervision on the yard until this time. Should you need your child to be at school earlier than 8.45am please book them in to Breakfast Club which commences at **7.45am**.

We do try to encourage independent skills from Reception; obviously if you have a concern /query please still feel free to speak to the class staff and if you need to speak to Miss Spencer in the office can you please enter school via the main entrance.

If your child is not going to be in school for any reason or needs to be picked up before the end of the school day can you please inform school as soon as possible.

Please note that more details will follow about many of these events and activities and some others may be added later.

Date	Event or Activity
8.1.19	Tuesday -School reopens for pupils
10.1.19	Please return <b>Bags 2School</b> by 9am today
14.1.19	Class 3 1 <sup>st</sup> of 10 swimming sessions
16.1.19	Multi-skills Club (1 <sup>st</sup> of 5 sessions)
16.1.19	Sewing Club (1 <sup>st</sup> of 5 sessions)
18.1.19	Football Club (1 <sup>st</sup> of 5 sessions)
6.2.19	Class 4 High 5 Netball Competition (pm)
7.2.19	Class 2 Multi-Skills Sports Festival (pm)
7.2.19	SATS Booster Club for Year 6 pupils (1 <sup>st</sup> of 10)
13.2.19	Last sewing Club/Multi-sports Club
15.2.19	Last day before half term
	<b>HALF TERM</b>
25.2.19	Return to school
26.2.19	Yoga Club (1st of 6 sessions)
27.2.19	Running Club (1 <sup>st</sup> of 6 sessions)
28.2.19	SATs Booster Yr6 continues (3 <sup>rd</sup> of 10)
1.3.19	Football Club (1 <sup>st</sup> of 6 sessions)
13.3.19	Class 4 Residential visit to Lockerbie Manor
15.3.19	Class 4 Pupils return from Lockerbie
19.3.19	Class 1 Sports Festival (pm)
20.3.19	Class 2 Football Competition (pm)
21.3.19	Class 4 Multi-skills Festival (pm)
30.3.19	<b>Saturday Car Boot Sale (am) fundraiser -details tbc</b>
2.4.19	<b>Open Evening for Parents/Carers</b>
5.4.19	<b>Easter Service at St Mary's Church 9.15am -all welcome</b>
	Easter Break
23.4.19	Pupils return to school

Yours sincerely

*C Riley*

Mrs Chris Riley  
Acting Headteacher



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