



GAINFORD C E PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER Monday 22nd March 2021



Message from Mrs Riley

It is hard to believe that a whole year has passed since 20th March 2020 when school closed for the first time due to COVID19. It was a time of such uncertainty and none of us could have predicted how the year would have unfolded. The wearing of masks has now become a familiar practice; we no longer shake hands with people we meet nor hug the ones we love, and we have all learned how to learn online. Throughout the year, I have been amazed by the support and courage shown by our school community. We have faced so much together, and it is by continuing to work together that we will prevail. I am sure we can look forward to a much happier future soon. It looks brighter already with all children back in school!

Easter Service

Sadly, we are still not allowed to have parents and carers joining us in church for this event and we still cannot have a whole school service - so two services in two separate bubbles it is! We are working with Reverend Eileen Harrop and all of our friends at St Mary's Church to ensure we still work on an uplifting Easter celebration.

What a busy week in school!

Class Tees pupils have been very busy learning new skills in PE sessions including netball skills. They have also been working on some lovely artwork based on The Easter Story.

Children in Class Wear have been enjoying drama and role play activities, acting out scenes from the Easter story. They have all worked incredibly hard on number work in maths and impressed me with marvellous addition work when I was teaching them on Friday.

Class Swale children have taken part in Forest School activities this week enjoying learning in the outdoor environment. They have also been busy preparing a song for our Easter Service.

Investing in Children Award

As a school we have been working towards the Investing in Children Award with Mrs Gallagher leading on this. As part of this process an assessor usually visits school to talk to the children but due to restrictions this had to be done virtually this year. On Thursday a group of Class Tees children spoke with the assessor in a Teams meeting; they were excellent ambassadors for our school and had lots of fabulous comments to make. Mrs Gallagher was so impressed she gave them all 20 dojo points each! Many thanks to Joe, Adam, Grace, Katie and Olivia from Class Tees for their contributions. Hopefully, we will soon receive the report and find out if we have been successful in gaining this award. Fingers crossed!

St Peter's site This week it was very worrying to hear that a small group of our children had been playing on the derelict St Peter's site. I have informed the parents of the children concerned and I have spoken with all pupils in class Wear and Class Tees to emphasise the dangers of this. To support the message of playing safe and making the right choices our local Beat Officer PC Williamson is also planning to come into school to talk to the children. He has previously delivered sessions to Class Tees and they have been very well received. Please support this message by talking to your child about playing safely and in particular about the dangers of accessing the St Peter's site and crossing busy roads etc. PC Williamson has also passed on my concerns about ease of access to this site. Now there is a site that would be wonderful for housing development!

Covid Update

Although we all may feel that restrictions may be lifted soon COVID19 is still very much present in our county There are 20 schools in County Durham that have had to close Bubbles due to cases of COVID19 in their school. Please continue to observe the rules of Hands, Face, Space. We have had reports of children calling on each other to play out. Please remember that this is still not allowed and causes great difficulty for those parents/carers trying to follow the rules.

Quick Reminder

If you do need to come into the main entrance of school will you please wear a face covering.

Thank you for keeping your distance when dropping off and collecting your child/children. This is very much appreciated.



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World Book Day

The children had a wonderful World Book Day and all of your £1 donations meant that we raised £52 for Comic Relief. Well done! If you have haven't seen the wonderful picture of our Class Swale children all dressed up for the occasion have a look in this week's Teesdale Mercury! They were very pleased to see themselves in our local paper! Photos will also be on our website very soon.

Gold Headteacher Awards

This week awards are for RE /Easter work

Class Swale	Morgan Noah Grace
Class Wear	Georgia Anthony
Class Tees	Isaac Joe

Well done for all of the fabulous work completed!

Dates for your Diary

Parental Consultations week commencing 22nd March. Appointments can be booked via the school office

Break for Easter Friday 26th March

Teacher Training Day Monday 12th April - school closed to pupils

Return to School Tuesday 13th April

Friends of Gainford School (FOGS)

Our Parents Action group FOGS are always keen to take on new members and new ideas. Their fundraising efforts benefit all pupils in school

Watch this space for future meetings for FOGS

Meetings are currently held virtually.

If you are interested in joining our parents action group, please contact

gainfordfogs@gmail.com

FOGS are working on a special Easter activity for all pupils -all will be revealed soon!

Housepoints /Dojo points

Well done for hard work and effort in school earning lots of team points. The Dojo points have been totalled up and **Fantastic Foxes** have come out on top this week!

DIZZY DOGS 178

FANTASTIC FOXES 308

LEAPING LIONS 135

COOL CATS 200