



Message from the Headteacher

When we booked the residential visit for our Year 5/6 pupils at the start of the autumn term we certainly could not have predicted a new Covid variant and such high infection rates across the country. With a Covid Outbreak in school, staff and pupils were bitterly disappointed to have the planned residential visit to Robinwood cancelled. Sadly we were unable to rebook the visit so this was a very disappointing start to our week.

Mrs Muir kindly offered to plan and deliver lots of outdoor activities for Class Tees to take part in this week and although this is not the same experience they have certainly enjoyed Forest Schools sessions, games sessions, den building, outdoor cooking as well as film and popcorn! There were lots of opportunities to develop team building and leadership skills across the week. Many thanks to Mrs Muir for helping to make this an enjoyable time for our pupils.

Covid has also brought with it pressures due to staff absences in many sectors including in our own school; I cannot thank our small team of staff enough for their willingness to help out across the school.

We wish staff and pupils who are currently at home a speedy recovery from Covid and hopefully we will have everyone back at school very soon.

Please take the time to read the updated guidance on LDD/PCR testing and self-isolation (attached with this newsletter) as new guidance comes into effect on Monday 17th January.

New Term, New Topics

Class Swale pupils have been very excited about their new topic 'Dinosaurs'; they have left dinosaur footprints everywhere and are learning lots of fascinating facts too. If you do have any dinosaur books or toys that you would like to donate to school we would love to have them to add to our collection. It's proving to be a very popular topic.

Class Wear pupils are starting to learn about Italy and are already planning an 'Italy Day' for later in the term. So far they have enjoyed making flags and learning about Italy in their topic and Geography sessions.

Beavers

Our pupils have always benefited from attendance at clubs such as Cubs, Brownies and Beavers, who meet in the Scout Hall close to our school. There are currently spaces in Beavers; here is some more information.

*For boys and girls aged 6-8, being a Beaver is all about growing and learning in small but mighty ways, including: exploring the great outdoors; trying new activities and learning new things; and helping others.
Gainford Beavers meets every Thursday in term time between 6:30pm and 7:30pm
Contact Katy on 07729744813 for more information.*

Reception Places

The closing date for signing your child up for a place in Reception is this Saturday 15th January. Please don't forget to do so to ensure their place for September 2022.

Youth Saints

The Youth Club at St Mary's Church holds its next session on Thursday January 20th 6.30-7.30pm This is already attended by several children from Class Tees who thoroughly enjoy the activities planned for them. Children aged 7-11 are welcome.

Stay safe and well and enjoy the weekend

Mrs Riley



Quick Reminder

Please ensure packed lunches are nut free and please do not send your child to school with nuts for a snack.

Please label your child's clothing including PE kit, hats, scarves etc as this will help us return any lost property to the correct pupil.

Diary Dates

Ready Steady Read Event: 24th January (more details to follow next week)

Break up for half term: Friday 18th February

Return to school: Monday 28th February

World Book Day: Thursday 8th March

Break up for Easter Friday 8th April

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Multi-sports – with Kyle for Yr2- Yr 6
Tuesdays 3.30-4.30pm -places available

Friends of Gainford School (FoGS)

FoGS have agreed to support us with the purchase of percussion instruments. A huge thank you!

Attendance w/e 14.01.2022

Our Minimum Target is 96%

Well, done to all classes who have achieved attendance above our minimum target.

A special well done to Class Wear for attendance that was the best out of the entire school.

Class	Attendance %
Swale	93.33%
Wear	97.25%
Tees	83.70%

Gold Headteacher Awards

Awards for PE/Outdoor activities and demonstrating independent skills or good team skills

Class Swale	Charlotte Lachlan
Class Wear	Ivy Oliver
Class Tees	Lyla Aiden Emelia

We are a Rights Respecting School

Rights Respecting –Article 15. Every child has a right to meet with other children and to join groups and organisations as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

HOUSEPOINTS/DOJO points

Well, done for hard work and effort in school this week! The Dojo points have been totalled up and those Dizzy Dogs have come out on top!

DIZZY DOGS 235

FANTASTIC FOXES 224

LEAPING LIONS 201

COOL CATS 208