



Message from the Headteacher

As Covid cases remain high across County Durham and in County Durham schools it is good to see our staff and pupils in school with no current cases of Covid reported. Pre Covid the average national school attendance rate for pupils was 96%. For schools across County Durham (at 20th January) this was 83.9% with 5.5% of pupils, 4.8 % of teachers and 4.6 % of other school staff testing positive for Covid. We are still facing challenging times and we are doing all that we can to ensure a safe learning environment for our pupils and staff. Staff are continuing to wear face coverings in communal areas and staff may wear face coverings in class. There is a continued focus on ventilation, and a rigorous approach to handwashing and respiratory hygiene. Please continue to support us by keeping your child at home if they develop Covid symptoms and ensure they are tested. If they are a close contact of a household member with Covid then please test your child every day for 7 days. By working together we will try to limit the spread of the virus within our school and within our families.

Storm Malik

Storm Malik left its mark on our playground over the weekend with our 'big equipment' covered in trees and branches. We are starting to look like a real Forest School! Unfortunately, this area of the playground is out of bounds until everything has been cleared. The trees belong to Raby Estate and they have started the removal process already so hopefully we will soon have our junior playground back. Class Swale children are all rather interested in what is going on outside of their window today!

Volcanic Eruptions in Gainford!

Volcanos have been erupting but they only impacted on one area -Class Wear! Class Wear pupils had an exciting time in their Science and Geography lessons learning about volcanoes and also creating their own-I'm not sure if Mrs Reed, our caretaker, was as excited about the overflow of 'lava' but the pupils had a lot of fun with lots of learning taking place at the same time.

Big Bird Watch

Our youngest pupils have been preparing for their Big Bird Watch. They have binoculars at the ready and have been learning about the different birds that visit our gardens. They worked with Mrs Muir in their Forest School session to make bird feeders so hopefully they have enticed lots of birds to visit our school garden.

Lessons on Zoom

Class Tees pupils are already learning about secondary school via Zoom sessions courtesy of Staindrop Academy. It is always such a daunting move from primary to secondary so by starting with our Year 5 pupils as well as including our Year 6 pupils this will hopefully prepare them for when they transition onto their secondary education.

Rights Respecting School

We always have a Rights Respecting article on our newsletter but what is it all about? The Rights Respecting School award (RRSA) helps the pupils in our school to grow into confident, caring and responsible global citizens. Our pupils learn about their rights and responsibilities and the award recognises achievement in putting the UN Convention the **Right of the Child** (CRC) at the heart of a school's practice to improve wellbeing and help all children and young people realise their potential.



The Award is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. Each week we look at one of the articles in one of our Collective Worship sessions; the children will learn about this and how it fits in with our Christian values and school vision. Please have a look in the Rights respecting box(below) to see what we have been focusing on.

Ready, Steady, Read!

I know that children across the school have been reading for the last week and being sponsored for it too. As our sponsored read event comes to a close we still encourage your child to read regularly or to be read to; this not only helps with reading skills but promotes better word choices in their writing, and helps with vocabulary in their speech. It's a life skill and we promote it in any way we can. All sponsorship money needs to be donated by Friday 11th February. Thank you for your support with this event.

The Year of the Tiger

Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, is just around the corner. Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year 2022 will fall on Tuesday, February 1st, 2022, starting a year of the Tiger.

Children in school are learning about this celebration. Reverend Eileen Harrop, who is also a school governor, is currently in Singapore visiting her elderly parents. We all send our love to her and her family and

祝您新年快乐,身体健康 – Wish You a Happy New Year and Good Health!

Children's Bible Society Charity

The Children's Bible Society contacted our school and their kind donation helped us to give all children from Year 2 upwards their own Bible for use in school. These are colourful, hardback editions with lots of wonderful illustrations and the children can take them away with them when they leave Year 6.

Youth Art Club in Gainford

GADS (Gainford Art and Design Society) meet in Gainford Gallery and are on the lookout for new members for their Youth Art Club. They meet on Saturday mornings 9.30-11am. If your child likes all things arty then this is a great club! You are welcome to call in or contact gainfordart@yahoo.co.uk

Hopefully after Storm Malik, Storm Corrie and volcanoes in Class Swale we will have a calmer end to our week!

Mrs C Riley

Quick Reminder

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

Our school day starts at 8.55am. Can you please ensure that your child is in school and ready to line up for this time; this ensures a settled and smooth start to their school day



Attendance w/e 28.01.2022

Our Minimum Target is 96%

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

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

Class	Attendance %
Swale	98.10%
Wear	97.25%
Tees	91.67%

Gold Headteacher Awards

The award this week was for maths. This can include anything from number formation, shape and measures work, calculation to problem solving and algebra.

Class Swale	Harrison Marley Harry
Class Wear	Elizabeth Joe Tidswell
Class Tees	Archie Zach

Diary Dates

Please note some events may be changed/cancelled if the school has an Outbreak of Covid

Break up for Half Term: Friday 18th February

Return to school: Monday 28th February

World Book Day: Thursday 8th March

Easter Service: Wednesday 6th April. All welcome at St Mary's Church 9.15am

School Discos Wednesday 6th April; Class Swale 3.30-4.30pm Tees and Wear 4.30-5.30pm

Break up for Easter: Friday 8th April

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Multi-Sports

With Kyle for Y2-Y6

Tuesdays 3:30pm – 4:30pm – places available

Friends of Gainford School (FoGS)

FoGS have been busy planning events for this school year. After school discos have been planned for April 6th and a car boot sale for Saturday 8th May (details to follow).

They will be holding a Summer Fair on Thursday 14th July. I am sure this will involve a gift tombola stall and a bottle stall amongst many other things so if you have any donations for either of these stalls please send them into school.

Please contact FoGs if you would like to find out how you can help with these fundraising events for our school or if you would like to join our small but very proactive team. FoGS are always looking for new members and for new ideas so don't be shy! They can be contacted on gainfordfogs@gmail.com.



We are a Rights Respecting School

Rights Respecting –Article 23 If you are disabled, either mentally or physically, you have the right to special care and education to help you develop and lead a full life.

We have been learning about Rose Ayling-Ellis who is an actor and who was the first profoundly deaf competitor on Strictly. Children learnt that everyone should have the right to an education and that having a disability should not be a barrier to this. We learnt that one of our pupils, Daisy, is learning sign language and she shared this with us encouraging others to learn it too. We were all very impressed and keen to learn more British Sign Language.

HOUSEPOINTS/DOJO points

Well done for all of the hard work and effort in school this week! Each child is in a house team and has their own Dojo avatar character on their class Dojo group to collect their points. They can earn house points called Dojo points for many things such as helping others, excellent work, brilliant effort, being an excellent role model, fabulous manners and lots more! Looking at the number of house points this week they have made a tremendous effort! Well done to all children in Fantastic Foxes for earning an amazing 320 points!

DIZZY DOGS

126

FANTASTIC FOXES

320

LEAPING LIONS

274

COOL CATS

312