



What a very busy week after a weekend of lovely weather and then snow! With clocks going forward and light nights arriving the world for us does seem like a sunnier place. I have seen a few tired faces across the school as pupils adjust their body clocks to an earlier waking time! I know that lots of them are looking forward to the chance to play out with friends after school or to play in their gardens or on the village green too.

We have not forgotten our neighbours in Ukraine and what they are going through. Schools across the country are set up should any refugee children need school places. Your kind and very generous donations arrived safely in Poland and we know that they were distributed by volunteers to the many waiting families who had crossed over the border to the safety of Poland. They still remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Important Covid Update

Important Covid update. From today (01.04.2022) the guidance and measures to be taken in relation to Covid have changed.

- Adults with symptoms of a respiratory infection and who have a high temperature or feel unwell should try to stay at home and avoid contact with others until they can resume normal activities and no longer have a temperature
- Children and young people who are unwell and/or have a high temperature should follow the same advice.
- Adults with a positive Covid test result should try to stay home and avoid others for 5 days
- Children with a positive Covid test are advised to stay home for 3 days
- Free universal asymptomatic testing will end from 1st April 2022 this means that PCR testing sites will close and the general public will no longer be able to order free tests by post.

Although the population should now have a much stronger protection against Covid. I think it is disappointing that the general public in England no longer have access to free LFD test kits like they do in Scotland and Wales.

Easter Service

Our Easter Service is to be held at St Mary's Church Gainford on Wednesday 30th March at 9.15am. Everyone is welcome to attend and we do hope that we see some of you there. This usually lasts for around 40 minutes. We will try to hold our services on different days across the year to accommodate working parents.

Changes in our school office

Our current Officer Manager, Mrs Rose Wickens, started at our school in April 2020. During her time with us she has totally transformed the office and swiftly dragged it into the 21st century! Setting up systems in school such as ParentPay and Operoo have been beneficial both for school staff and parents alike. She is due to retire this Easter and is currently working with her replacement, Mrs Jenny Linsley, to ensure a smooth hand over. Mrs Linsley joins us from her administration post at Tow Law School and has had lots of experience. So, a HUGE Gainford welcome to Mrs Linsley and a HUGE Gainford THANK YOU to Mrs Wickens!



In the swim!

Class Wear pupils have completed a set of ten swimming sessions at Teesdale Leisure Centre and they have all made tremendous progress. They have developed water confidence and stroke technique and they have been a delight to take out of school; fabulous ambassadors for Gainford Primary! They should all be very proud of themselves!

Developing future school staff

As a school we take great pride in developing new teachers and teaching assistants and all staff are happy to share their expertise and good practise. In Class Wear we currently have Miss Hutchinson, a student from York St John University, who is on her second-year placement with us. We also have two teaching Assistant students in school, Miss Green and Miss Beckley who are working in Class Swale and Class Wear respectively and who are both offering invaluable support to teachers and pupils. I am sure that they are all learning so much from the staff in school.

Be Internet Legends

Class Tees and Class Wear pupils had a live online assembly this week "Be Internet Legends" where they joined pupils from other schools to learn about how to stay safe and confident online by following these simple messages.

Sharp - Think Before They Share **Alert** - Check It is for Real **Secure** - Protect Your Stuff

Kind - Respect Each Other **Brave** - When in Doubt, Discuss.

This session enhanced the work already being taught in school and the pupils certainly took a lot from the sessions gaining a better understanding of on-line safety.

Sophie- "I learnt even more about being safe online"

Laurence "It taught us how to be more careful when purchasing things online."

What a sporty week!

On Tuesday, pupils in Class Swale attended a multi-skills festival organised by Staindrop Academy PE department. They tried out lots of activities including football and gymnastics and had a full morning of activities.

Charlotte, "I enjoyed the football game 'Nasty Planets'. You had to keep your ball away from the planets or you lost a point"

Preston, "The gymnastic games were good fun!"

Lachlan, " We played a snowball game but the balls were really tennis balls and I did not get tug!

Class Tees attended their festival on Thursday. The festivals and competitions are a wonderful way for children to increase their participation levels and to try out different sports and activities hopefully encouraging them to be active at home and at school.

Mrs Gallagher said, " It was wonderful to see two of our former pupils, now in Year 7, helping out as Sports' Leaders too."



'H2 The Future- STEM Workshop'

On Wednesday, a member of staff from Oases (Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists) delivered a workshop for Class Tees. The pupils learnt about different types of energy. They discussed the need to move away from fuels like petrol and diesel and they learnt about hydrogen, a green alternative. They put their learning to good use to build buggies powered by hydrogen. The session opened their eyes to work and careers in the STEM areas (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) and was enjoyed by all.

Messy Church Assembly

The children had an assembly all about 'Messy Church'. This is a new club for families starting in St. Mary's Church, Gainford with the first session on Sunday 10th April 3.30-5. 30pm. It sounds like a fun event!

Big Spring Clean.

Our School Council members started off this week by launching the Big Spring Clean. With their high - visibility jackets and litter pickers in hand they set out along School Lane and on onto the community field on a litter picking expedition. Here are some of the comments from School Council-

Adam *"We collected almost two bags of litter on the community field!"*

Lyla *"Collecting litter is a good thing to do to help protect our environment."*

Joe K *"It's good that everyone is trying to do their bit to improve our village."*

Jay *"It is really sad to see so much litter in our village and people should put rubbish into a bin or take it home with them."*

The children have a good understanding of the impact litter can have on our environment and they were shocked at how much litter they did find within our local environment. Our youngest children from Class Swale were also involved and tidied up our village green.

Bonnie, *"We are off to help save the world!"*

Lewis, *"There was a lot of litter. I saw broken bottles and they can hurt animals. Animals can get stuck in plastic too."*

Kyle *"We help to save our world because we are picking up litter,"*

Lots of residents have already commented on the positive impact they have made to our local area. Watch out for photographs in the local press.

Support with Maths

In school we use some of the White Rose Maths resources. They have now produced an app "One Minute Maths." This supports children with number work and is free to download and can be used by pupils from Preschool up to Year 6. It is certainly worth a look.

Vacancies in school

Mrs Mennell our cleaner and lunchtime supervisor is retiring at the end of the summer. If you are interested in either of these posts please do get in touch with the school by Tuesday 5th April.



'Together we love, learn and flourish'

Reminders

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

If your child is on packed lunch we kindly request that this does not include sweets or chocolate bars. Our school meals include a careful balance of protein, carbohydrate, fat, minerals and vitamins etc. If your child is on packed lunch and they would like to try a school meal please get in touch with the office

Attendance w/e 01.04.2022

Our Minimum Target is 96%

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

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

Class	Attendance %
Swale	94.29
Wear	88.89
Tees	94.81

Gold Headteacher Awards

Awards for weekending 25.03.2022 were for a good sense of humour.

Class Swale	Lachlan Angus Bonnie
Class Wear	Elizabeth George
Class Tees	Joe K Amelia T-L

Awards for weekending Music 01.04.2022

Class Swale	Camilla John
Class Wear	Lucy Bethany
Class Tees	Becky Ava

Diary Dates

Easter Service – Wednesday 6th April - St Mary's Church 9. 15am. All are welcome!

Easter Disco – Wednesday 6th April

Class Swale 3.30pm -4.30pm

Class Tees and Wear 4.30pm to 5.30pm

Break up for Easter: Friday 8th April

Return to school: Monday 25th April

Parents Evenings - in school - Tuesday 26th April & Thursday 28th April -information to follow

Additional Jubilee Day for school: Friday 29th April - school closed

Bank Holiday – Monday 2nd May school closed

Clubs for the Summer Term.

Football Club Tuesdays 3.30-4.30pm with Kyle
Open to Year 1 pupils from Class Swale and Class Wear pupils. 3rd,10th,17th 24th May

Gardening Club Thursdays 3.30-4.30pm with Miss Farley Open to Class Wear and Class Tees pupils 5th,12th,19th,26th May

Athletics Club with Kyle Tuesdays 3.30-4.30pm
Open to Class Wear and Tees
6th,14th,21st,28th June 12th July

Booster Club Wednesdays for Year 6 pupils Last session is 4th May.

Youth Saints (at St Marys Church, Gainford)
For 8–12-year-olds Thursday 7th April
Bible Group 5.45-6.30pm
St Mary's Youth Group 6.30-8.00pm



GAINFORD C E PRIMARY SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER Friday 1st April 2022



'Together we love, learn and flourish'

Friends of Gainford School (FoGS)

The next FoGS meeting is on Tuesday 5th April at 8pm. This will be via teams. If you would like to come along or even just find out how you could help with up-and-coming fundraising events then please contact Gainfordfogs@gmail.com

We are a Rights Respecting School

Rights Respecting – Pupils in school learnt about World Water Day and were made aware of the two billion people in the world currently living without access to safe water.

HOUSEPOINTS/DOJO points

Well done for all the hard work and effort in school this week! The Dojo points have been added up and those Leaping Lions have come out on top!

DIZZY DOGS **197**

FANTASTIC FOXES **185**

LEAPING LIONS **215**

COOL CATS **191**