



As the impact of the Earthquake in Turkey and Syria unfolds onto our screens it certainly puts our every day worries and concerns into perspective. Many of our children have been talking about this and have independently written messages of hope for all concerned, hanging them on our Reflection Tree in our school hall.

There will be a collection at the end of our service on Monday (see below) and we will also collect any monetary donations in school next week to forward to the Disasters Emergency Committee via the British Red Cross.

SIAMS Inspection - The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools

On Thursday of last week, we were visited by Mr Paul Rusby who came to inspect our school as a church school. Our whole school community helped us to showcase what is so fabulous about our school. He met with staff, pupils, governors and parents and he visited classrooms, spoke with School Council and joined in with our Collective Worship. He even caught parents at the school gate. I am sure that he was impressed by all that he saw and experienced and recognised our school as the supportive, inclusive and nurturing setting that we know it to be. As soon as the report is issued I will share it with our whole school community.

Thank you all for your support and contributions during the inspection process- this was very much appreciated. Many thanks to our school staff team who were fabulous as always!

Safer Internet Day –

This year 'Safer Internet Day' was celebrated on the 7th February with thousands of people across the UK working together to champion youth voice and engage in conversations about how we can all work together to make the internet a great and safe place. More and more children and young people have access to the internet via PCs, Laptops, tablets, smart phones, smart watches and gaming devices.

Children in our school, from preschool to Year 6, learn about staying safe on line as part of the Computing curriculum. The messages are reinforced across the curriculum so that our children have a good understanding of how they can keep themselves safe whilst working on line at school and also whilst working or playing on line at home. We support our children to know what they can do if they see or hear something that they are not comfortable with.

If you require further information about how you as a parent can support your child to stay safe on line please follow the link below

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023/parents-and-carers>

Mr Martin is one of our safeguarding leads and is also our Computing Lead. He has also added some links onto our website to help parents ensure their child is safe when using their phone. If you do need additional advice or support please feel free to get in touch

Topics



This term Class Tees are learning about Rainforests and Class Swale's topic is 'Jungles' so there are plenty of opportunities for our older children to share their learning with children in Class Swale. Class Wear are fully engrossed in their 'Romans' topic and they have already been developing their Computing skills when preparing presentations on what they have learnt so far. Its all very exciting in school!

Jay, " I have enjoyed learning about subsistence farming in the Amazon;a whole field of rice can only feed one family."

Becky , "Learning about the animals of the rainforest has been really interesting .There are so many species . We have drawn some of them in our art sessions which was fun."

Jacob " In our jungle topic I have learnt a lot about frogs and about their life cycle ,changing from a tadpole to an adult frog. Its really interesting."

Joey " The jungle topic is interesting because we learn about rivers ."

Stem Investigation Club

Building bridges was the order of the day at Stem Club on Monday. Children worked cooperatively and also demonstrated good leadership skills as they worked together to build their bridge; true engineers in the making!

Growing Faith Partnership Award -Celebration Service.

Our successful partnership working with school, home and church has been recognised and as a result we are the first school to be awarded the Growing Faith Partnership Award. We think this is cause for celebration! On Monday 13th February, at 2.30pm there will be a service at St Mary's Church-Everybody welcome! We will share some of the fantastic projects we have been involved in such as

Mini Disciples Club, Ukraine Appeal, Fallen Tommies project, support for The Well foodbank, Open the Book, School Council initiatives. Worship Leaders, Youth Saints Club amongst many other things. Children and adults will be making contributions and we would love you to come along. This will be followed by an exhibition of our partnership projects in school from 3.30pm until 4.30pm lead by the children.

School Meal Price increases.

Durham County Council in conjunction with school catering suppliers are increasing the cost of a school meal to £2.41 per meal and £2.89 for Pre-School children from Monday 27th February.

If your circumstances have changed and you think that your child may be entitled to free school meals please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office

Lateness

A reminder that school commences at 8.55am, there have been a number of children arriving after the start of the school day, so far this year the number of late arrivals equates to 366 occasions! These can statistically be 2449 minutes or 40.81 hours or 6.83 school days! Please note that repeated lateness can



be recorded as unauthorised absence and may trigger fines from the local authority. Thank you to parents and carers who ensure that their child/ren arrive on time.

Pre School Open Morning

On Thursday 16th February 9.30am-11.00am we are opening our doors to the youngest residents of our local community. Parents and carers with babies and toddlers are welcome to come along to our morning session. Gainford Parent and Toddler group have also been invited. It promises to be a fun Forest School session with pancake making and refreshments too. If you already have a child in preschool please feel free to come along and share in this fun session with your child. We will be outside for part of this session so please wrap up too!

WATER BOTTLES

All pupils are asked to bring in a water bottle each day so they can drink regularly throughout the day. These will be sent home every night so that they can be washed and returned to school again the following morning. We request that these drinks bottles contain water only, please. Water is essential to your child's health, aiding digestion helping prevent constipation, and is vital for proper blood circulation.

Please see the following websites for further information/guidance:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/water-drinks-nutrition/>

<https://www.nutrition.org.uk/healthy-sustainable-diets/hydration/>

EARLY REMINDER SATS-STANDARDISED TESTS

What are SATs?

SATs are standardised assessment tests administered by primary schools in England to children in Year 2 and Year 6 to check their educational progress. In 2020 and 2021 KS2 SATs did not take place due to the Covid-19 pandemic however these were undertaken in 2022. Primary school SATs results will be published in national league tables this year by December 2023.

Year 6 SATs Tuesday 9th May 2023 – Friday 12th May 2023.

Year 2 SATs Schools – during May 2023.

Year 4 Multiplication Tables check – taken in June 2023

Year 1 Phonic Screening Check Week- commencing Monday 12th June

As you know we do not authorise leave of absence in term time unless it is for exceptional circumstances and it is very important that your child is in school in the run up to these tests and for the tests themselves.

C Riley



Reminders

We are a **NUT free** school. Please do not send your child to school with nut products.

Summer Fayre Fundraiser

If you can help by contributing of any of the items below this will be very much appreciated.

- Bottles of Alcohol/Wine/Spirits – Bottle Tombola Stall
- A filled jar with or without a lid of items such as hair bobbles, toys, marbles, sweets, pencil, Crayons, rubbers etc – Jar Tombola Stall
- School Uniform in good condition – Preloved Stall
- Bottle Gift Bags
- Tombola Gifts for a Surprise tombola stall – e.g. toiletries/toiletry sets, toys/games, glove/hats, socks, etc

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far.

Attendance w/e 10.02.2023

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	97.1
Wear	93.3
Tees	92.8

Gold Headteacher Awards

Awards were for Topic Work

Well done for the fabulous work this week

Class Swale	Preston, Isabelle Harrison, Jacob -Super Jungle work and class contributions.
Class Wear	Ryan A- Fabulous work on The Romans
Class Tees	Archie -Marvellous work on rainforests.

Dates

Celebration Event: St Marys Church February 13th
2.30-3.30pm then exhibition in School 3.30-4.30pm

Netball Tournament: Class Tees Wednesday 15th
March (Dark jogging bottoms, PE top, School Jumper and trainers required)

Half Term: Last school day Friday 17th February

Return to school: Monday 27th February

World Book Day Thursday March 2nd

Easter Service: Tuesday 28th March 2.15pm

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Multi Sports with Kyle

Tuesdays 3.30pm to 4.30pm
28/2 7/3 14/3 21/3 28/3
£4.50 per session - £22.50

Mini Disciples with Claire Mead

Wednesdays 3.30pm to 4.30pm
01/03 08/03 15/03 22/03 29/03
£2 per session - £10.00

Year 6 SAT Booster Club (free) for Year 6 pupils only

Wednesdays 3.30-4.30pm



GAINFORD C E PRIMARY SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL

'Together we love, learn and flourish'

10th February 2023



School Disco: Wednesday 29 th March (details tbc)	Feb 15th
Easter Holidays Last day of School: 31 st March	March 8th,15th,22nd, 29th
Return to School: Monday 17 th April	April 19th, 26th
Additional Bank Holiday: Monday 8 th May	May 3rd
SATS Week: Year 6 from Tuesday 9 th May	
School Closed: Monday 19th June	
Summer Holidays: Last School Day Friday 21 st July	
Friends of Gainford School (FoGS)	
We would love to see more volunteers supporting our school so if you are interested in volunteering or just finding out more, please contact gainfordfogs@gmail.com . The next meeting is via Teams on Wednesday 15th March at 7pm. Please join us if you can.	
We are a Rights Respecting School	
Our pupils have been learning about the right to be heard and the right to speak out .They recapped many of the projects they have been involved in where they stood up for those who did not have a voice , for example the homeless, the hungry and those in war torn countries .We certainly have a vocal and proactive School Council who take views from their class mates and put these into action .	
HOUSEPOINTS/DOJO points	
Well done for all the hard work and effort in school this week! The Dojo points have been totalled up and those Fantastic Foxes have come out on top!	
<u>Dizzy Dogs</u> 317	<u>FANTASTIC FOXES</u> 338
<u>LEAPING LIONS</u> 333	<u>COOL CATS</u> 310