



We have a had a wonderfully busy week with award celebrations, sporting events, visits from toddlers, visits from parents and carers and lots of our community partners paying us a visit too!

Netball Tournament for Class Tees

On Wednesday our Class Tees pupils took part in a High- 5 Netball Tournament at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. Mr Innes, the PE Coach from Staindrop Academy who organised the tournament, commented on how well the children behaved throughout the afternoon. Mr Innes had coached the children during this half term and the children really developed their skills. Next half term it is the turn of Class Swale to have football training, building up to a football festival in March. The pupils really benefit from this partnership with Staindrop Academy as they increase their participation levels, have specialist PE coaching and enjoy competing against and working with other schools.

Growing Faith Partnership Award -Celebration Service.

On Monday we held our Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church followed by a celebration event in school with an exhibition of our partnership projects. It was a wonderful afternoon and really helped to showcase and give thanks for all of the fantastic work we do with home, school and church. It was a fabulous opportunity to personally thank all of our partners who have helped to enrich the lives of school families, our church and the wider community. It was also a good reminder of the local, regional and national charities our school community had contributed too. Class Tees and Class Wear lead the singing for 'My Lighthouse' Class Swale sang their hearts out to their own version of 'He's got the whole world in his hands' complete with actions too. It was wonderful to see how far we had come over the last five years and wonderful to hear the contributions from all of our partners

At the exhibition in school our pupils were delighted to share all that they had done with the many visitors who came back to school. Here are just a few of their comments

"Singing was just the best thing! We sang My Lighthouse and the Bishop joined in and do you know he was quite good!" Angus.

"I enjoyed writing a prayer for the service and reading it to everyone in church; it felt special" Emelia

Lydia said," I was really pleased to show people the prayers spaces we had made and also to explain all about our prayer tree in our school hall. It felt special to have Bishop Paul looking at all of our work"

"It was good to share the things that School Council had done like supporting the foodbank and supporting the Ukraine Appeal"

Messy Church

The next Messy Church for families will be on Sunday 19th February at St Mary's Church Gainford 3.30-5.30pm. The focus will be Messy Lent and will feature creative crafts, worship songs, stories and food. Claire Mead leads on this and lots of our children have worked with her in school. All are welcome.



Appeal for Turkey and Syria

Whilst we celebrate what makes our school and community such a wonderful place we are still seeing the truly awful conditions of families in Turkey and Syria trying to come to terms with the devastation left behind after the earthquakes. They are certainly in our thoughts and prayers. Donations can be made via Christian Aid and DEC

<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal>

St Mary's Church, Gainford is also collecting cash donations at their 10.45am Sunday services this week and next week.

Lunch at school

Chartwells took over from Taylor Shaw as the school caterers and introduced their new menu in the autumn term. We thought it was a good opportunity to invite parents and carers into school to try a meal for themselves. It was wonderful to see that so many parents and carers took up the opportunity to try out a school meal this week; although it was quite tricky fitting everyone into our hall! Parents and carers could see and taste what we offer for lunch on a daily basis. There were certainly lots and lots of positive comments not only about the delicious food but also about the positive environment of the school dining hall. The meals offered are tasty and well balanced and we believe they offer very good value for money.

Chartwells will be updating their menu for the summer term and we will share this with you as soon as possible.

Industrial Action

Although there is industrial action planned for Tuesday 28th March our school will be open for all pupils as usual.

Attendance

Today in our celebration worship I gave out 100% attendance certificates and medals for this half term. As we appear to be seeing the back of the winter illnesses so many suffered from last term, I ended up giving out awards to 26 pupils! Well done. Punctuality and attendance are incredibly important to ensure that your child can reach their potential in school

Pre School/Toddler Open Morning

On Thursday 16th we opened our doors to the youngest residents of our local community. Parents and carers with babies and toddlers came along to our morning session. Mrs Muir had planned a Forest School session and the children enjoyed eating pancakes by the fire. Gainford Parent and Toddler group had also been invited to come along and it was good to see some new faces joining in with the fun. We will plan



another event for the summer term so will keep you posted. Thank you to Mrs Gallagher, Mrs Muir and Miss Farley for organising this.

World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday 2nd March and if children would like to they can come dressed as a character of their choice; staff usually get involved too! Children can bring in a favourite book from home to share with other children in their house team; the older pupils really enjoy sharing books with the younger children. There will be lots of activities planned over the week and it's a great way to encourage reading for pleasure and a love of books

I would like to say a huge thank you to all of our school staff who have worked extremely hard over this half term and with a SIAMS inspection thrown in to the mix! Teaching and support staff all go out of their way to ensure our pupils are offered lots of exciting opportunities to learn and develop.

We say goodbye to our school cook Emma and wish her well as she starts a new post with McMillan Cancer Support, a charity close to her heart. Rebecca Coyles has been working alongside Emma for the last two weeks so she will start as our school cook after the half term holiday. As Shrove Tuesday falls in the half term holiday (21st February) we did not want to miss out on making pancakes. Emma spent her last day adding pancakes to our lunchtime menu and they certainly went down well with the children.

Thank you to Mr Mercy who has been a wonderful student teacher in Class Wear. He has really enjoyed his teaching placement with us and it has been a pleasure to see him develop his teaching skills. I know the children have enjoyed his input too. We all wish him well for the future.

Class Wear Swimming recommences on Monday 27th February – don't forget your Swimming Kit!

I do hope that all of our pupils enjoy the half term break and we will see them all on Monday 27th February.

C Riley

PS Shrove Tuesday is the 21st February so ensure you are stocked up with pancake ingredients!

Reminders

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

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. Please note this is not a school decision.



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 17.02.2023

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 attendance that was the best out of the entire school.

Class	Attendance %
Swale	98.30
Wear	97.30
Tees	94.40

Gold Headteacher Awards

Awards were for **Music**

Well done for the fabulous work this week

Class Swale	Harry & Esme Whole class for their singing in church
Class Wear	Erin - thoughtful exploration of how music makes you feel. Whole class for singing My Lighthouse so well in church
Class Tees	Whole class for singing 'My Lighthouse' so well in church Zac- contributions in class when discussing composers

Dates

Half Term: Last school day Friday 17th February

Messy Church -Sunday 19th February 3.30-5.30pm

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



GAINFORD C E PRIMARY SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL

'Together we love, learn and flourish'

17th February 2023



<p>School Disco: Wednesday 29th March (details tbc)</p> <p>Easter Holidays Last day of School: 31st March</p> <p>Return to School: Monday 17th April</p> <p>Additional Bank Holiday: Monday 8th May</p> <p>SATS Week: Year 6 from Tuesday 9th May</p> <p>School Closed: Monday 19th June</p> <p>Summer Holidays: Last School Day Friday 21st July</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Year 6 SAT Booster Club (free) for Year 6 pupils only Wednesdays 3.30-4.30pm Feb 15th March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th April 19th, 26th May 3rd</p>
---	--

Friends of Gainford School (FoGS)

Friends of Gainford School -Summer Raffle

We have already had raffle prizes donated from Headlam Hall and Raby Castle. Thanks to FoGS for organising this fundraiser. If you can donate a prize or know of a business who would be willing to donate a prize please get in touch with 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

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 Cool Cats have come out on top!

All four teams have now won five times so it's a close competition to see who will raise the House point trophy during the final week of the summer term!

<u>Dizzy Dogs</u>	268	<u>FANTASTIC FOXES</u>	250
<u>LEAPING LIONS</u>	<u>268</u>	<u>COOL CATS</u>	273



GAINFORD C E PRIMARY SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL

'Together we love, learn and flourish'

17th February 2023

