



As a Headteacher waking up to a 'snow day' that is also a school day is never what I would call fun! Checking access to the school with the caretaker, waiting to hear which staff can manage to travel in and if the cook can also manage to travel through to feed our pupils always makes for an interesting morning before decisions on opening a school can be made. However, watching the children during break time on our first snow day -making snowmen, throwing snowballs and having an amazing time in the snow -filled playground with their friends was an absolute joy! I must say a huge thank you to our staff who travel from all directions but who are always dedicated to keeping our school open wherever possible.

Keen to be Green

Class Wear have had two visits from Rachel Moore who works for OASES (Outdoor and Sustainability Educational Specialists). OASES work with our school to help children look positively to the future and learn how they can be part of the fight against climate change, the move towards green technologies and renewable energy and the adaptations required for a sustainable future.

Class Wear pupils took part in lots of hands on practical activities, including learning about solar panels and wind turbines. We have already appointed energy monitors who ensure that pupils and staff turn off devices and lights when not in use saving energy wherever possible. The children had lots to say about the sessions.

Lucy - I enjoyed making the wind turbines turn really quickly.

Bethany - I really enjoyed it because when we got to hold hands in a circle making a circuit the light lit up. It was amazing!

Ivy - I liked getting the lights to flash using solar power.

The children were thoroughly engaged in the tasks and have really demonstrated a better understanding of sustainable energy. We recognise the need for competency in STEM subjects in providing a green future and these sessions help to enthuse children about the possibilities in science, technology, engineering and maths. Hopefully OASES will be back later in the year to work with more pupils across the school

Participating in PE and outdoor activities

As a school we are passionate about ensuring that our children are active participants in a range of sporting and physical activity. We link this with curriculum work on healthy lifestyles and want our pupils to recognise that being physically active can have such a positive impact on both our physical and mental health. Our PE curriculum covers many areas such as gymnastics, team games, swimming, dance and outdoor adventurous activities. Mr Innes, from Staindrop Academy is currently coaching Class Swale with football skills and Kyle Swankie is delivering football sessions for Class Tees pupils.

Our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils have now been invited to take part in two full days of activities at The Hub, Barnard Castle. This includes archery and canoeing amongst other activities. I'm sure it will be a wonderful opportunity to develop team building and leadership skills as well as introducing the children to new and exciting outdoor activities. We have planned the visit for May, after SAT's week.

School Uniform

We would like to remind parents that the school uniform is a green cardigan or jumper/Sweatshirt, green polo shirt, black or grey trousers (not jogging bottoms) or skirts/pinafore or checked green/white dress. The PE Kit is a white top and dark bottoms(shorts or jogging bottoms/leggings). Children should have a change of shoes for PE



.Although uniform can be ordered from Elizabeth's Embroidery most items are available via supermarkets or online stores at competitive prices.

We have a number of items in the lost property box and we have a selection of Pre-Loved uniform available. Please let the school office know if you want to see what is available in your child's size. We also have a small amount of funding left, should your child need a new coat, shoes or item of uniform, please speak to Mrs Linsley to see how we can help you.

Mini Disciples Charity Event

Our Mini Disciples Club along with the support of Claire Meade, Children's Missioner decided to raise some funds for Comic Relief. They will be holding a stall at school on **Wednesday 22nd March at 3pm** near to the pupil entrance gate. There will be a

- **Guess the weight of the cake -50p**
- **Tombola Stall -£1.00**
- **Face Painting - 50p**

If your child would like to bring along a pound they could visit the stall at the end of the school day or you could visit the stall and make a donation yourself.

Our Staff Absence Insurance Provider has also donated £50 to Comic Relief on behalf of our school so this is a good start!

Diabetes Awareness

Diabetes UK have contacted schools as they are wanting to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of type 1 diabetes in children and adults and the importance of spotting symptoms early to prevent diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) which can be life threatening. They are working very hard to try to reduce this risk as much as possible. Please take the time to read through the attached information leaflet to help you spot the signs and symptoms.

Absence /Punctuality

If your child is absent from school can you please **report this daily**. You can leave a message on the school phone and there is usually someone in school from around 7.30am to answer any calls. This is really important to ensure that we know why your child has not turned up for school. Safeguarding our pupils is a priority and we don't presume they are ill unless we have been notified that they are. We do still have some children who frequently turn up late for school. This is unsettling for them as it does not ensure a smooth start to their school day. They may miss out on register, ordering their choice of lunch, key learning, and Collective Worship time. Can all parents please ensure that their child/children are in school by 8.55am at the latest and come into school by the main pupil entrance gate into the playground and not via the main school entrance door. Our gates open at 8.45am and the playground is supervised by an adult from this time to allow children to arrive at school anytime from 8.45am.

The vast majority of our pupils arrive punctually and we do appreciate this. Thank you for your support with this matter

Wraparound Care Bookings

We have emailed parents who regularly access the wraparound care service, with the booking form for Summer Term 1 (April & May), please can you complete and return this as soon as possible to the school office. If your requirements change, please notify the school office 48 hours in advance, as we have to plan staffing. The terms & conditions are contained on the booking form.



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/e17.03.2023

Our Minimum Target is 96%

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

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

Class	Attendance %
Swale	93.04
Wear	86.00
Tees	99.44

Gold Headteacher Awards

17.03.2021 **Handwriting**

Well done for the fabulous work this week

	17.03.23
Class Swale	
Class Wear	George
Class Tees	Thea

Friends of Gainford School (FoGS)

FoGS have kindly offered to hold two fundraising discos this term. They will be held on Wednesday 29th March

3.30-4.30pm Class Swale 4.30pm-5.30pm Class Tees and Wear. As well as the usual music and dancing there will be hotdogs/vegetarian option and games/bingo too!



GAINFORD C E PRIMARY SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL



'Together we love, learn and flourish'

21st March 2023

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 May 7pm. Please join us if you can.**

We are a Rights Respecting School

This week the children have looked at Article ...

After School Clubs

Tuesdays – Multi Sports with Kyle (last session 28th March)

Wednesdays – Mini Disciples with Claire (last session 22nd March)

Wednesdays – Year 6 SATS Booster Sessions

Forest School Session - Thursday 30th March 3.30pm-5.00pm open to Wear and Tees pupils

Easter Craft Club - Friday 24th March 3.30pm-5.00pm open to Class Swale

Easter Craft Club - Monday 27th March 3.30pm-5.00pm open to Class Tees & Wear

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! Lots of dojo points were given out for fabulous reading this week including how well our older pupils have encouraged our younger pupils with their reading.

Dizzy Dogs

FANTASTIC FOXES

LEAPING LIONS

COOL CATS

Diary Dates – Whole School

Weekly

Mondays	Swimming (in school hours)	Class Wear	Last Session 27/03/2023
Tuesdays	Multi Sports 3.30pm-4.30pm		Last Session 28/03/2023
Tuesdays	Football Sessions (in school hours)	Class Swale	Last Session 28/03/2023
Wednesdays	Mini Disciples 3.30pm-4.30pm		Last Session 22/03/2023
Wednesdays	SATS Booster Sessions 3.30pm-4.30pm	Year 6	Last Session 03/05/2023

Events

22/03/2023	Football Festival	Class Swale	(in school hours)
22/03/2023	Mini Disciples Charity Event		3.00pm-4.00pm



GAINFORD C E PRIMARY SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL



‘Together we love, learn and flourish’

21st March 2023

22/03/2023	SATS Parents Meeting	Year 2	3.30pm-4.00pm
24/03/2023	Easter Crafts	Class Swale	3.30pm-5.00pm
27/03/2023	Easter Crafts	Class Tees & Wear	3.30pm-5.00pm
28/03/2023	Easter Service at St Mary’s Church	All Welcome	2.15pm
29/03/2023	School Disco	Class Swale Class Tees & Wear	3.30pm-4.30pm 4.30pm-5.30pm
30/03/2023	Forest School	Class Tees & Wear	3.30pm-5.00pm
24/04/2023	Parental Consultations	Class Swale & Tees	By Appointment
25/04/2023	Parental Consultations	Class Swale, Wear & Tees	By Appointment
Throughout May	SATS	Y2	(in school hours)
09/05/2023	SATS Week	Y6	(in school hours)
15/05/2023 & 16/05/2023	Activity Days	Y5 Y6	In school hours
20/05/2023	Car Boot Sale /coffee and cake stall	All welcome	Cars arrive from 9.30am Open to the public from 10am-12pm
24/05/2023	Cricket Festival	Class Wear	(in school hours)
29/06/2023	Summer Fayre		Time TBC
18/07/2023	School Production	Class Tees	2pm & 6pm
20/07/2023	YR6 Leavers’ Service at St Mary’s Church	All welcome	9.15am

Term Dates

Easter Holidays	Closes 31/03/2023	Reopens 17/04/2023
Bank Holiday	School Closed 01/05/2023	
Additional Bank Holiday	School Closed 08/05/2023	
Whit Week	Closes 26/05/2023	Reopens 05/06/2023
Staff Training Day	School Closed 19/06/2023	
Summer Holidays	Closes 21/07/2023	Reopens 05/09/2023