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| British pupils are some of the most tested pupils in the world, having statutory assessments in Reception, Year 1 (phonics), Year 2, Yr4 (multiplication check) and Year 6; obviously this does not include additional testing in secondary school. It was certainly good news to hear that the Year 2 SATS are to be discontinued as I know that teachers are more than capable of assessing attainment of the pupils in their care. More importantly teachers monitor and track pupil progress across the year taking a child’s starting point into consideration. Sadly, the government are soon to be trialling new tests with Year 2 pupils in selected schools across the country and although not statutory they may well be recommended!  **Year 6 SATs Week**  Well done to all of our Year 6 pupils who demonstrated a most conscientious approach to their Standard Attainment Tests (SATS). They have all worked incredibly hard and have tried their very best. They sat tests in Reading, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, Arithmetic and Maths Reasoning.  You may have seen quite a lot of media coverage in relation to the reading test with many Headteachers and teachers considering it to be more difficult than previous years. I did think that it put our pupils under added pressure to try to finish it in the allocated time and many headteachers have said that pupils who would ordinarily have completed the whole test in the time available just didn’t get to the end of it. Headteachers are feeding back their opinions on this year’s tests both to unions and to government and it will be interesting to see what their response is to this. Year 6 pupils will have results sent through in mid-July. Mrs Kidd and Mrs Maude have worked with the Year 6 pupils and they couldn’t be prouder of their work ethic and of the progress they have made throughout the year.  **Key Stage 1 SATS**  Our Year 2 children have been very busy completing their Key Stage 1 SATS, in Reading, Spelling and Maths. We do call them ‘quizzes’ and they have all been very eager to try out a “quiz! Miss Farley uses this information to support her teacher assessment. We have been very proud of them all.  **Phonics Screening /Multiplication Table Check**  Our Year 1 children have a phonics screening check carried out in June and our Year 4 children have a Multiplication Tables Check. Miss Farley and Mr Martin have said that It is certainly a good idea to keep up with phonics and tables over the half term break so if they say “’I’m bored” …… you know what they can do!  **Holy Communion/Confirmations**  This month two of our staff members, and two of our pupils were confirmed at a special ceremony held at Staindrop. The Bishop of Durham, Bishop Paul Butler, conducted the service after having a very busy weekend supporting King Charles throughout the coronation ceremony. Reverend Canon Eileen Harrop followed this with a Communion service in school where the newly confirmed adults and children received their very first communion. This was the first time that this type of service had been held in our school and we have been here since 1857!  We offer a huge congratulations to Mrs Linsley, Mrs Demopoulos, Anthony and Emily as they take this next step in their faith journey.  **Cricket Festival**  Year 3 and Year4 pupils attended a cricket tournament at Raby Castle this week and put all of their newly learnt skills to good use. They had a fabulous time and came a very respectable 3rd in the competition.  ***“It was great to compete with other schools,” Lucy***  ***“I loved hitting the ball as far as I could,” Oliver ­­­­­­­­­­­***  ***“We won our group and got to the semi-finals. We were good sportsmen,” Dexter***  ***“Even though we didn’t win we had a great time. We had fun and tried our best, “Georgia***  ***“I really enjoyed playing against other schools,” George***  **Educational Visits**  Staff have been very busy organising next term’s educational visits for our classes. Class Wear are heading off to Durham Cathedral (June 21st) for workshops and activities, Class Swale are visiting South Shields (June 22nd) and our Year 5/6 pupils are going to The Hub for two days of team building and outdoor activities. The Hub visit is now taking place on July 6th and 7th. It’s going to be a busy half term!  **Sports Day**  This year Sports’ Day will be on **Tuesday 27th June** from 1.20 pm. All are welcome.  **Fundraising for Staging Units**  As our Key Stage 2 children (Class Wear and Tees) get ready to take part in their end of Year production “Porridge’ we are very aware that our old, wooden stage ended up on last year’s bonfire !!We are currently fundraising for a new portable stage. The staging units would also be available for wider community use so will hopefully benefit many people in our local community as they will be accessible for Scouts/Brownies, church events and village events  **Raffle Tickets**  We now have our raffle tickets and we would really appreciate everyone’s help to sell as many as possible. Every ticket counts! There are some fabulous prizes including a Nintendo Switch and a night at Headlam Hall amongst many others. (see poster attached) Tickets are available from the school office and also available at The Cross Keys pub and at the hairdressing salon, Angel Hair  If you have already agreed to buy or sell tickets on our behalf -THANK YOU!!  **Car Boot Sale**  Many thanks to FoGS for organising our Car Boot Sale, held last Saturday. There was a good turnout of sellers and buyers and the weather was perfect. The refreshment stall was a huge success with lots teas and coffees purchased and lots of cakes eaten too! Thank you to anyone who baked for this event -it gave ‘The Great British Bake Off’ a run for its money! Along with raffle ticket sales a total of £518 was taken on the day. This is a fabulous contribution towards our staging units  **Summer Games Night**  Following on from last year’s successful Summer Games Night we will be holding this again on Thursday June 29th. We will send further details out after the half term break.  We will be talking to our pupils about what games and stalls they would like to have and we know that FoGS are keen to support us with this too. Hopefully coconuts have not risen too much in price as the coconut shy was very popular last year and we have already had requests to have this again this year!  **Free School Meals**  Please contact the school office if your circumstances have changed as you may be entitled to Free School Meals and Cool Milk.  **Soft Toys**  Have you got any soft toys in very good condition that you can donate to school? We will be holding a soft toy stall next half term. Please send any donations along to school  **End of Year Production**  Class Tees and Class Wear children have been working on parts for the end of year production, ‘Porridge’. I’ve seen lots of children with scripts in hand both in school and even at break times. Mrs Kidd will be informing the children who has which part so they can work on their lines. This is a great opportunity to develop many skills - singing, dancing, art/design for prop making, acting, technical skills etc. The production brings all of our junior children together so also involves lots of team work and collaborative working. It can be a highlight of their year so we hope they enjoy of every minute of both rehearsals and actual performance. Fingers crossed we will have a stage too!!  The Bank holiday weekend looks to be a warm and sunny one. I do hope that you all manage to enjoy some family time either over the weekend or during the half term break  School re opens after the Half Term break on Monday June 5th.  Take Care  Mrs Riley |
| Reminders  Just a reminder that our school day starts **at 8.55am** and our school playground is supervised from 8.45am. Please ensure that your child does not arrive at school before 8.45am unless they are going to breakfast club as there is no adult supervision before 8.45am. If you do arrive late with your child after the pupil gates have closed please bring them to the main entrance and ensure you hand them over to a member of staff  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. |

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| **Attendance w/e 25.05.2023**  Our Minimum Target is 96%  Well done to all classes who have achieved attendance above our minimum target.  A special well done Class Wear whose attendance was the best out of the entire school.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Class** | **Attendance %** | | **Swale** | 96.02 | | **Wear** | 96.58 | | **Tees** | 92.02 | | **Gold Headteacher Awards**  This week the award was for Maths.   |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | | **Class Swale** | Harvey  Harrison | | **Class Wear** | Ada | | **Class Tees** | Becky | |
| **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](mailto:gainfordfogs@gmail.com) . **The next meeting is via Teams on Wednesday 7th  June at 7pm. Please join us if you can.**  FoGS are busy organising our Big Summer Raffle with some super prizes. Tickets are now available. FoGS are hoping to raise enough money to allow the school to purchase some new staging units ready for the school production in July. | |
| **We are a Rights Respecting School**  **Article 14** You have the right to think what you like and be whatever religion you want to be, with your parent’s guidance.  We talked about how children and young people are free to be of any or no religion. Their parents can help them make decisions around religion but: a parent can’t force a child to adopt a religion and a parent can’t force a child to stop following a religion.  We talked about how the children who decided to be confirmed made this decision themselves. | |
| **After School Clubs**  **Mondays- Computing/Online Safety Club – Mr Martin 3.30-4.30pm**  **Tuesdays – Multi Sports with Kyle 3.30-4.30pm**  **Wednesdays- Mini Disciples Wednesdays 3.30-4.30pm**  **Thursdays Craft Club (Class Wear) 8th June Craft Club (Class Tees) 15th June 3.30-4.30pm** | |
| **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 **?Leaping Lions** have come out on top! | |
| **Dizzy Dogs** 207 | **FANTASTIC FOXES**  231 |
| **LEAPING LIONS** 234 | **COOL CATS** 205 |

**Diary Dates – Whole School**

**Weekly**

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| Mondays | E Safety Club 3.30pm-4.30pm | Class Wear & Class Tees | Last Session 05/06/2023 |
| Tuesdays | Multi Sports 3.30pm-4.30pm | Y1 -6 | Last session 11/07/23 |
| Tuesdays | (In school hours) |  |  |
| Wednesdays | Mini Disciples  3.30pm-4.30pm | Class Wear & Class Tees | Last session 19/07.23 |

**Events**

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| 07/06/2023 | Y6 Leavers Service | (Children Only) | (in school hours) |
| 08/06/2023 | Craft Club | Class Wear | 3.30pm-4.30pm |
| 15/06/2023 | Craft Club | Class Tees | 3.30pm-4.30pm |
| 20/06/2023 | School Photos | Whole School |  |
| 21/06/2023 | Durham Cathedral | Class Wear | (in school hours) |
| 22/06/2023 | South Shields | Class Swale | (in school hours) |
| 27.06.2023 | Sports Day | All welcome | 1.20pm |
| 28/06/2023 to 30/06/2023 | Transition Day Hummersknott Academy | Year 6 | (in school hours) |
| 29/06/2023 | Summer Fayre | All welcome | Time TBC(after school) |
| 30/06/2023 | Taster Day at Staindrop Academy | Year 5 | (in school hours) |
| 06/07/2023 & 07/07/2023 | Outdoor Activities at the Hub | Year 5 & Year 6 | (in school hours) |
| 13/07/2023 & 14/07/2023 | Transition Days  Teesdale Academy | Year 6 | (in school hours) |
| 12/07/2023 & 13/07/2023 | Transition Day Staindrop Academy | Year 6 | (in school hours) |
| 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**

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| 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 |