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| **Dementia Awareness**  The Castle Players theatre groups well as an amazing puppet called Oscar came to our school on Wednesday and delivered a play ‘Always by your side’. The play was delivered to our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils. It was all about Oscar’s grandma who had dementia. This helped the children to gain an understanding of what dementia is and how it can impact on someone’s life. It was pitched at their level and all of the children were thoroughly engaged and made lots of fabulous contributions during the workshop afterwards. The children then wrote letters to Oscar telling him what dementia is and also giving him advice on how he could help his grandma showing; they showed good understanding. As more families are seeing the impact of dementia on family members the play could not have been timelier. The organisers also commented on the fabulous behaviour, attitude and contributions demonstrated by all of the pupils; I know they are fabulous but it is always special when visitors to school say the same thing  **Industrial Action**  Although industrial action is set to occur on Tuesday 5th May our school will remain open as usual  **Parent Consultations**  Thank you to all parents/carers for attending the parental consultations this week. If you were unable to make your appointment please remember to contact school as your child’s class teacher will gladly rearrange this meeting.  **Start of School day**  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.  **Coronation Activities**  As the coronation of King Charles approaches we are marking the occasion with activities in school. On Thursday 4th May instead of our usual school lunch we are having a street party buffet lunch; the hall will be decorated in red, white and blue and the children can come to school in red, white or blue or a combination of these colours if they would like to do so. Yes, football strips that have the colours can be worn jeans, headbands etc. The staff have planned lots of activities and will be learning about the Coronation so it should be a memorable occasion.  **Operoo – Student Verification Messages**  As part of our continued drive to ensure our records are up to date, Operoo sends out reminders, to verify your child/rens records. Unfortunately, until you respond to them, they will continue to be sent automatically. Could we request that you take a few moments to verify that the records are correct. Many thanks.  **And Finally ….. some very important but sad news!**  After working at Gainford Primary for many years Mr Martin is set to retire from teaching at the end of August this year. After our caretaker, Mrs Reed, he is the longest serving member of staff and the place will be very different without him. He will certainly be missed by all. He has taught so many children, brothers and sisters, across the years and we all appreciate his hard work and dedication to the school. He is still here for the rest of term so it’s not final goodbyes yet! we will say a proper good bye and good luck at the end of the school year.  We are advertising for a new teacher to join our school team and will keep you informed when an appointment has been made. Mr Martin will also work with the new member of staff to ensure a smooth transition.  Mrs McLachlan, who teaches French and Music to Class Tees and Class Wear is also working her last term at our school. She has worked with us for eleven years and sad she will be leaving with a heavy heart. She expressed how much she has loved her time with us, working with the staff and all of the children who have passed through our doors. She has even offered to be around as a volunteer in the future if we need her help!  I do hope you enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend  Mrs 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. |

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| **Attendance w/e 28.04.2023**  Our Minimum Target is 96%  Well done to all classes who have achieved attendance above our minimum target.  A special well done Swale whose attendance was the best out of the entire school.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Class** | **Attendance %** | | **Swale** | 95.68 | | **Wear** | 91.57 | | **Tees** | 94.19 | | **Gold Headteacher Awards**  This week the award was for being tidy and organised …or improving on this!   |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | | **Class Swale** | Lennie  Harry | | **Class Wear** | Erin | | **Class Tees** | Amelia T-L  Emilia P | |
| **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 May 7pm. Please join us if you can.**  FoGS are busy organising our Big Summer Raffle with some super prizes. As soon as tickets are available we will let you know. 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**  The children learnt about their right to live without war and conflict and recognised how difficult it must be for the people in Sudan.  School Council also discussed how important it is to have their voices heard and listened to and they out forward ideas of the Gainford Weekend activities. | |
| **After School Clubs**  **Tuesdays – Multi Sports with Kyle 3.30-4.30pm**  **Wednesdays – Year 6 SATS Booster Sessions (last session 03/05/23)**  **Wednesdays- Mini Disciples Wednesdays 3.30-4.30pm**  **Mondays- Computing/Online Safety Club – Mr Martin 3.30-4.30pm (first session 15/05)** | |
| **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! Lots of dojo points were given out for fabulous work and behaviour this week and for wonderful contributions at our Easter Service | |
| **Dizzy Dogs** 238 | **FANTASTIC FOXES**  221 |
| **LEAPING LIONS** 239 | **COOL CATS** 204 |

**Diary Dates**

**Weekly**

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| Mondays | E Safety Club 3.30pm-4.30pm | Class Wear & Class Tees | From  15/05/2023 held over 3 weeks |
| Tuesdays | Multi Sports 3.30pm-4.30pm | Y1 -6 | 18/04 25/04 02/05 09/05 16/05 23/05 |
| Tuesdays | Cricket  (In school hours) | Class Wear |  |
| Wednesdays | Mini Disciples  3.30pm-4.30pm | Class Wear & Class Tees | 19/04 26/04 03/05 10/05 17/05 24/05 |
| Wednesdays | SATS Booster Sessions 3.30pm-4.30pm | Year 6 | Last Session  03/05/2023 |

**Events**

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| Throughout May | SATS | Y2 | (in school hours) |
| 09/05/2023 | SATS Week | Y6 | (in school hours) |
| 15/05/2023 & 16/05/2023 | Outdoor Activities | Y5&6 | (in school hours) |
| 20/05/2023 | Car Boot Sale /coffee and cake stall | All welcome | Morning (time tbc) |
| 24/05/2023 | Cricket Festival | Class Wear | (in school hours) |
| 07/06/2023 | Y6 Leavers Service | (Children Only) | (in school hours) |
| 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) |
| 28/06/2023 to 30/06/2023 | Transition Day Hummersnott School | Year 6 | (in school hours) |
| 29/06/2023 | Summer Fayre |  | Time TBC |
| 30/06/2023 | Taster Day at Staindrop School | Year 5 | (in school hours) |
| 13/07/2023 & 14/07/2023 | Transition Days  Teesdale School | Year 6 | (in school hours) |
| 12/07/2023 & 13/07/2023 | Transition Day Staindrop School | 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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| 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 |