



Mental Health Awareness

You may have seen some of children in the Teesdale Mercury this week in various yoga poses! We ended last term with an afternoon dedicated to mental health and well-being. The children worked in their house teams, Oak, Willow and Sycamore, with the older children working with our younger children, on lots of exciting activities over the course of an afternoon.

Children in Sycamore Team listened to the story 'Colour Monster' and focused on different emotions and worked on mindful activities. Children in Oak and Sycamore worked in their teams on art activities such as autumn wreaths and modelling animals.

Mrs Maude delivered yoga sessions to all of the children and this was enjoyed by everyone, so much so that lots of children have asked for a repeat session! There was lots of time to think about the activities that help us to relax and unwind and calm down. Daisy our 'Reading Dog' was also in school to 'listen' to children reading and time spent sitting with Daisy and stroking her whilst reading or whilst listening to stories appeared to be very therapeutic!

It was a wonderful afternoon with our older children supporting and working with our younger children and we hope to do this again next term.

Spooky Disco Night!

Thanks to FoGS for running our two Halloween Discos and also to school staff for supporting these activities. There were games like 'spooky corner's and musical statues and lots of dancing and refreshments too. This helped to raise money for things such as the coach transport to the pantomime and for other educational visits.

Careers Learning Opportunities

We are having a whole school focus on careers this year and hope to open our children's eyes to lots of careers and employment opportunities.

We had a visit from Jo Pickering, a local artist who has been exhibiting at The Whitham in Barnard Castle. She came to school to talk to the children about the skills she needs as an artist but also about her training and career path. She even started a painting of a highland cow to show the children how she works; we can't wait for the finished painting to be sent back to school! She was a real inspiration and many of the children felt inspired to improve their artistic skills.

Just before half term we also had a visit from fire fighters from Darlington Fire Service. As it was close to Bonfire Night they spoke about the need to be safe around bonfires and fireworks and shared their advice but they also spoke about the skills training and qualities needed to work in different roles in the Fire Service.

We are already planning more visitors to school for this academic year.

Acceptable Use Policy

We sent home a child friendly acceptable use policy for Key Stage One (Class Swale) and Key Stage 2 (Class Tees and Class Wear). Please return a signed copy to school. If you need an additional copy please contact school.

Anti-Bullying Week

Next week is national Anti-Bullying Week. Our pupils will be learning about different forms of bullying and what they can do if they see bullying or if they are bullied. For the launch of this national campaign on Monday your



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child can come to school in **ODD SOCKS!** They can be worn over tights too! This is to represent that we are all unique and different and that we should celebrate our differences. Being inclusive and caring are two of our core Christian Values and they will be a focus for next week.

Speak Out to Stay Safe

All of our children from 5-11 years have been involved in the NSPCC Speak out, Stay safe project. This was set up to ensure that all children were aware of what abuse is and what they could do to get help. The children took part in assemblies set at an age appropriate level and recognised that they all have a right to be safe. The follow up activities helped them to understand that every child has a right to be safe and to recognise their trusted adults who they could turn to for help and support if required. They were also introduced to Childline and how to contact them. The Childline website is a very good site for children as there are games to play to help build up self-esteem and lots of information whether they are feeling good, down or anxious.

Children in Need

Next Friday 17th November is Children in Need day and our School Council members would like to support this Mrs Gallagher held a school council meeting with them and this is what they have decided upon.

They will hold a cake stall (cakes 50p) during break times on Friday 17th- all children welcome to bring 50p/£1.00 for a cake. Class Swale will be making special biscuits but if you would like to donate cakes for this stall this would be appreciated (Please ensure that they are NUT FREE)

Friday will be a non- uniform day. Children can wear their casual clothing, pyjamas or onesies etc. They ask that children bring £1.00 as a donation. Football strips can be worn but all children still need to wear sensible footwear and not football boots, summer sandals etc.

I do hope that you all have a good weekend.

C Riley

Quick Reminder

Winter clothing

As the weather starts to become colder our lost property box usually starts to over flow with gloves, hats and scarves - rather like a volcanic eruption! Please label your child's clothing so that any lost property can be returned to the rightful owner.

No nut products please!

We do have a pupil in school with a nut allergy. Please ensure packed lunches are nut free and please do not send your child to school with nuts/nut products for a snack.



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Please check any birthday cakes to ensure that they do not contain nuts too!

Illnesses

If your child has an episode of sickness and or diarrhoea please keep them off school until 48 hours after their last bout of sickness as this helps prevent the spread of infections.

Attendance w/e1 0.11.23

Our Minimum Target is

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

A special well done to Class Wear for attendance that was the best out of the entire school.

Class	Attendance %
Swale	93.75
Wear	96.00
Tees	92.22

Gold Headteacher Awards

Each week in our Celebration Worship assembly Gold Headteacher’s awards is presented to some children who have excelled when working towards our theme of the week

Awards were for using their initiative

Class Swale	Lachlan Esme B
Class Wear	Isobel Harry
Class Tees	Emily Emilia

Diary Dates

Please see our full list of Diary dates for the autumn term at the end of this newsletter

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Multi-Sports

With Kyle for Y2-Y6 First session 12.09.23
Tuesdays 3:30pm – 4:30pm – places available

New Mini Disciples Club with Sarah Fells /Wendy Broderick
Wednesdays 3.30pm-4.30pm

Friends of Gainford School (FoGS)-Our Parents Action Group

Our parent action group help us to raise funds for our school benefitting all pupils in school. They help with the cost of transport for educational visits to try to keep costs down for families. FoGs also support us to purchase resources and equipment for school and help to organise and fund fun events for our pupils

If you are interested in supporting our school and learning more about FOGS please contact school or drop FoGS an email gainfordforgs@gmail.com

We are a Rights Respecting School

Rights Respecting This week we focused on Every Child has a Right to be Safe; this linked in very well with the work we covered on Speak Out. Stay Safe.



GAINFORD C E PRIMARY SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER 10th November 2023



'Together we love, learn and flourish'

HOUSEPOINTS/DOJO points

Well done for all the hard work and effort in school this week! The Dojo points have been totalled up and this week and WILLOW have come out on top! Well done!

OAK 234

WILLOW 284

SYCAMORE 250

Diary Dates Autumn Term 2023

Tuesdays – After School Club	Multiskills After School Club starts 07.11.2023 – 6 Weeks	3.30pm-4.30pm with Kyle Swankie
Wednesdays - After School Club	Mini Disciples	3.30pm -4.30pm with Sarah Fells & Wendy Broderick
Monday 20.11.23	Teacher Training Day	School closed to pupils
Tuesday 21.11.23	Parental Consultations –Open Night	3.30pm -6pm
Tuesday 21.11.23	Book Fayre Arrives in school	The Book Fayre will be in school for the week
Wednesday 06.12.23 – Friday 08.12.23	Residential to Robin Wood -	Class Tees
Wednesday 06.12.23	Class Swale Nativity Performance	1.00pm
Thursday 07.12.23	Class Swale Nativity Performance	9.30am
Tuesday 11.12.2023	School Christmas Dinner Day	
Wednesday 13.12.23	Whole School Pantomime visit (Darlington)	During school day
Thursday 14.12.23	Class Swale Christmas party	
Friday 15.12.2023	Class Tees/Wear Christmas Party	
Monday 18.12.23	Christingle Service	9.15am at St Marys Church, Gainford
Tuesday 19.12.23	Last day in school Break up for Christmas	
Wednesday 03.01.24	Teacher Training Day	School closed to pupils
Thursday 04.01.24	Pupils Return to school	

CPD /Teacher training Days – school closed to pupils

Monday November 20th 2023

Wednesday January 3rd 2024

Monday 15th April 2024

Friday 24th May 2024