



# GAINFORD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024

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*Together we love, learn and flourish*

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- **Monday 11<sup>th</sup>-Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November** – National Anti-Bullying Week
- **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November** – Odd Socks Day
- **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November** – World Kindness Day
- **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November** – Children in Need
- **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November** – Scholastic Book Fair in School
- **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November** – Wear Class Parents Evening
- **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November** – Swale, Wear & Tees Parents Evening
- **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December** - Whole School Pantomime visit (Darlington) to see Sleeping Beauty
- **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December** - Class Swale Nativity Performance @ 9.30am
- **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December** – Class Swale Nativity Performance @ 2.45pm
- **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Jumper Day
- **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** - Christingle Service @ 9.15am at St Marys Church, Gainford
- **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** - School Christmas Dinner Day
- **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Parties & Santa Fun Run
- **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** - Last day in school / Break up for Christmas
- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January** - Teacher Training Day / School closed to pupils
- **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January** – Pupils return to school

### NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE

I am delighted to share that we have recently launched our brand new website, which you can visit at [www.gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk](http://www.gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk)

We will be updating the information on a regular basis to ensure you have access to the latest news and important details about our school. You will find everything you need to know, from our curriculum and school policies to the upcoming events highlighted on our calendar.

We encourage you to explore the website regularly; it's the best way to stay connected with school life. Furthermore, we'll be sharing delightful photos and stories on our social media page, which is conveniently linked on the website.

Please note our academic year calendar is also available on our website:  
[https://www.gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk/web/school\\_holidays/](https://www.gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk/web/school_holidays/)



### ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

This week is **National Anti-Bullying Week (Monday 11th - Friday 15th November)**, with the theme: **Choose Respect**.

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 children were invited to wear Odd Socks for the day. This was to represent that we are all unique and different and that we should celebrate our differences.

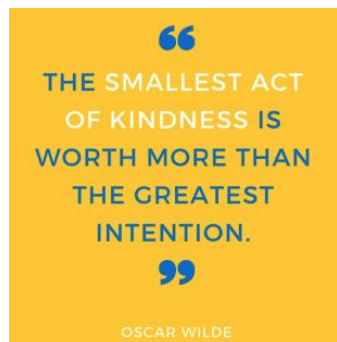


## WORLD KINDNESS DAY

We will be celebrating World Kindness Day in school on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November**.

This day serves as a reminder of the positive impact that kindness can have on individuals, communities, and the world at large.

During our Collective Worship we will be looking at The Parable of the Good Samaritan and reflecting upon how our acts of kindness, however big or small, can really make a difference in someone's life.



## CHILDREN IN NEED

Our fundraising day for Children in Need will be held on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November**. This year we are inviting pupils to come dressed in either their **pyjamas or Pudsey related clothing (£1 suggested donation)**. Our School Council would like to hold a bake sale (cakes - 50p each) during break time on Friday. Pupils are welcome to bring a small amount of additional money for this. If you would like to donate cakes for this stall this would be appreciated (Please ensure that they are nut free – thank you). All money raised will be going to Children in Need.



## SWIMMING

Just a reminder that swimming lessons will resume for Tees Class (Y5&Y6) on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November** at Teesdale Leisure Centre.

Please note that their last session will be on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**. Class Wear will have lessons in the Spring Term starting in January.

## PE DAYS

- **Swale Class (EYFS, Y1 & Y2)** Tuesday & Friday
- **Wear Class (Y3 & Y4)** Tuesday & Thursday
- **Tees Class – (Y5 & Y6)** Tuesday & Thursday



## FRIENDS OF GAINFORD SCHOOL (FOGS)

A huge thank you to FOGS and school staff for helping to organise and run the Halloween Disco at the end of half term. The event was a great success and lots of fun was had by all. FOGS have also very kindly agreed to support us with the funding for the Accelerated Reader programme in school (further details will follow at a later date) and towards the transport for the pantomime. Your support is really appreciated – **THANK YOU!**



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

**Multi-Sports** with Kyle Swankie for Y1-Y6  
Tuesdays 3:30pm – 4:30pm

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



## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair will be coming to school on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November until Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November.**

Every time you buy from the Book Fair, you be helping towards free books for our school.

Further information will be sent via Operoo.



## HEADTEACHER GOLD AWARDS

**Week 6 – Caring for others**

Frankie, John & Erin

**Week 7– Showing Kindness**

Harriet, Freddie & Oliver

**Week 8 – Working towards a goal/target**

Franco, Isobel & Elizabeth

Keep Up the Good Work!



## ATTENDANCE & ABSENCE POLICY

### 2024-2025

Just a reminder that our **Attendance and Absence Policy 2024-2025** is available on our school website. [https://www.gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk/web/school\\_policies/](https://www.gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk/web/school_policies/)

This has been updated in line with updated Government guidance and regulations including information linked to the new national framework on issuing penalty notices.

I would be grateful if you could ensure you read this document carefully and are fully aware of the legal requirements around attendance - thank you.

## ATTENDANCE

Our Minimum Target is 96% Well done to all classes who have achieved attendance above our minimum target. Super work! 😊

Swale	Wear	Tees
98%	98%	98%

Current Whole School Attendance is **98%**  
**Amazing Work - Well done everyone!**



## RECEPTION CLASS PLACES 2025

If you have a child who turns five between 1 September 2025 and 31 August 2026 you can now apply for a school place.

Visit [www.durham.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces](http://www.durham.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces) where you can access a useful guide to help with your application. Online applications are encouraged but paper application forms are available on request from Durham County Council.

Applications close at midnight on **15 January 2025**. For more information, please contact School Places and Admissions Team on 03000 265896.

## PANTOMIME

The Whole School will be going to the Darlington Hippodrome on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December @ 10.30am** to see Sleeping Beauty. Further details will be sent out via Operoo. We can't wait!



## **PACKED LUNCHES & BREAKTIME SNACKS**

In school where possible we try to encourage and promote healthy eating habits. Please could we politely ask that those parents and carers who provide packed lunches for their children, aim to make these as healthy as possible. We recognise that many of you already do this and would like to thank you for this, but in some cases, we have recently noticed an increase in the number of unhealthy items some children bring for their lunch. Research shows that nutritious lunches support children's learning and overall well-being, so we would really appreciate your cooperation with this matter.

**To maintain alignment with food standards set for school meals and ensure consistency, we kindly ask that packed lunches do not contain the following restricted items:**

- Chocolate bars, sweets, or confectionery
  - Chocolate desserts e.g. pots of joy
    - Sugared or toffee popcorn
- Crisps that are high in salt and fat (usually labelled red using the food traffic light system)
  - Fizzy or sugary drinks in cartons, bottles, or cans
- Glass thermos flasks or glass containers (due to health and safety reasons)

Additionally, please be mindful of nut allergies that may affect other children.  
Please check that there are no nuts in any products you send in.

**Breaktime snacks must also be healthy e.g. fruit, bread sticks etc and not chocolate bars, sausage rolls, sweets, cakes , biscuits etc.**

Thank you for your understanding and support in fostering a healthy eating environment for our children - we really appreciate it!



### **WATERBOTTLES**

Please send your child to school each day with a water bottle containing **water only**. These can be refilled across the day. Water is also provided on the lunch tables for all pupils (school meals and packed lunches).

### **EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS**

Please can you let the office know if you have recently updated any of your contact details **especially mobile phone numbers and email addresses** as it is essential that we have two contact numbers per child - thank you.

## **HOUSE POINTS/DOJO POINTS**

Well done for all the hard work and effort in school! The Dojo points have been totalled up and  
These are the results so far ...

<b>Date</b>	<b>Oak</b>	<b>Sycamore</b>	<b>Willow</b>
18/10/2024	103	110	112
25/10/2024	357	342	341
08/11/2024	343	495	375


Are you turning 6 soon?  
Would you like to...

Build dens?      Cook on a fire?      Make paper aeroplanes?

Make new friends?      Have fun?      Explore nature?

Try new things?      Play games?

Then why not try Gainford Beavers?  
We meet on Thursdays at 6:30pm in the Scout Hut  
Contact Fiona on 07739312113 for more info!



**BEAVERS**

## Term Dates 2024-2025

Holiday	Closing date	Date re-opens
Christmas 2024	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Spring half-term 2025	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2025
Easter 2025	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
May Day 2025	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2025	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Summer half-term 2025	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025
Summer 2025	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	TBC

### Teacher Training Days 2024-2025

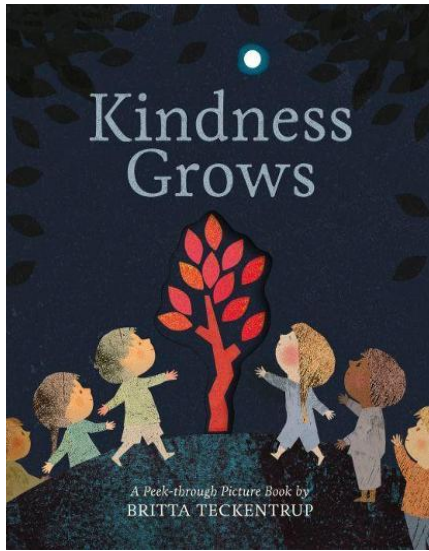
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025



**Many thanks for your continued support.**

Mrs. K. Whitaker & The Gainford Team x

# Recommended Reads

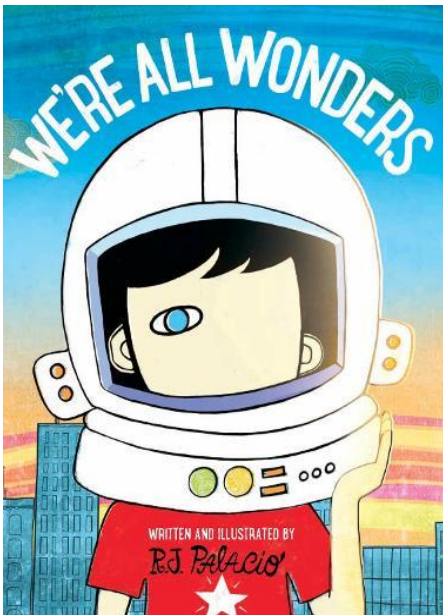


## **Kindness Grows: A Peek-through Picture Book by Britta Teckentrup (Paperback) Britta Teckentrup (author)**

It all starts with a crack that we can hardly see,  
It happens when we shout or if we disagree.  
But with every kindness that we care to show  
Something good and magical will begin to grow.

Angry words cause a crack to open up but find out what happens when kindness begins to blossom in this thought-provoking book by award-winning author and illustrator Britta Teckentrup.

This beautifully illustrated, affirming picture book pairs poignant text with gorgeous illustrations to show us how the choices we make can bring us together or drive us apart. With vibrant artwork and peek-through pages, this is a story to treasure. Die-cuts let you peep through the pages to watch the story unfold and gentle text reinforces the inspiring message that kindness can grow something beautiful.



## **We're All Wonders (Paperback) R J Palacio (author/illustrator)**

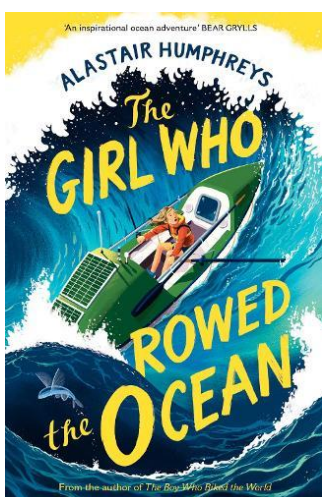
I know I can't change the way I look. But maybe, just maybe, people can change the way they see

Wonder is the unforgettable story of August Pullman, an ordinary boy with an extraordinary face. With over 5 million copies sold, Wonder is a true modern classic, a life-changing read, and has inspired kindness and acceptance in countless readers.

Now younger readers can discover the Wonder message with this gorgeous picture book, starring Auggie and his dog Daisy on an original adventure, written and illustrated by R.J. Palacio.

With spare, powerful text and richly imagined illustrations, We're All Wonders shows readers what it's like to live in Auggie's world - a world in which he feels like any other kid, but he's not always seen that way.

We're All Wonders taps into every child's longing to belong, and to be seen for who they truly are. It's the perfect way for families to talk about empathy, difference and kindness with young children.



## **The Girl Who Rowed the Ocean (Paperback) Alastair Humphreys (author)**

Lucy wants to explore the world and do something daring and difficult. But people laugh at her when she hatches a plan to row across the Atlantic Ocean. So, her family rallies round to help prepare for the journey, loading her boat with supplies for 3,000 miles of rowing. Her school friends follow her from afar, learning about the ocean, its wildlife and pollution. Alone at sea, Lucy faces seasickness, storms and a very sore bottom, not to mention close encounters with ships and a humpback whale. Yet there are also the joys of wandering seabirds, shooting stars and magical sunsets, as she finds she is capable of more than she ever imagined. Step aboard and join Lucy on her life-changing adventure to become the girl who rowed the ocean.