



It was lovely to call into school last week to see the staff and the children. Although I have been keeping in touch via Teams, telephone calls and emails it is certainly not the same as being in school. I must thank Mrs Kidd for holding the fort and the whole staff team for their continued hard work during my absence. I know lots of people like working from home but you certainly don't get 6-year olds knocking on your door to show you their fabulous phonics work or having junior children coming along to show you their huge improvement in joined writing or their amazing maths work. A huge thank you to Mrs McLachlan for coming back to school to teach my French lessons in Wear and Tees! The children had made me some lovely Get-Well cards featuring lots of Lake District mountains; somewhere I certainly won't be going to for a good while yet!

Consultation Meeting re joining a Multi Academy Trust

As you know I am retiring at the end of this academic year and governors and I want to ensure that the school is in the best possible position to ensure that all pupils and staff continue to flourish in our wonderful school. Our pupils are our priority and we firmly believe that looking to join the trust will be an exciting opportunity that will benefit the school, pupils and staff whilst still keeping our own uniqueness and identity.

Please try to come along to the consultation meeting next Tuesday 6th February at 4.45 pm where there will be lots of opportunities to ask questions and to meet Paul Rickeard from the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust (DNDLT). Your opinions really matter and it will be an opportunity to learn about what the trust can offer us as a school and what we can bring to the trust too. This is a consultation process and your opinions and views really do matter.

Governors have met with Headteachers/Chairs who are already in this trust and their feedback has been incredibly positive in terms of the support they have had from the trust, the positive impact for staff and pupils but also that the schools who have joined retain what makes them unique and special.

What have we been Learning?

Class Swale are really enjoying learning all about castles in their new topic. They have been very enthusiastic about finding out when the first castles were built and why they were built.

The early years children have been building their own castles using cardboard bricks which were kindly donated to school. The whole class have also been getting to know Miss Cherrie, a student teacher on placement from York St John University. Miss Cherrie will be on placement at our school until the Easter holidays and she is already enjoying her time in our school, planning exciting activities for Class Swale pupils and working with the Class Swale team

Class Wear go swimming every Monday and last week they all tried very hard and had a brilliant time. They were encouraged to go under water to try and find the sinker toys and practiced floating on the water.

They have also started to learn how to play the glockenspiel in music. They practised playing notes D and E and did really well when playing as whole class.



In history they discovered the mystery of the empty Anglo-Saxon grave and the children used clues found in the grave to work out who had gone missing. The children are really engrossed in this topic and are enjoying learning lots of fun facts.

Class Tees pupils have been busy writing scripts for adverts and they are going to be filming them this week. In PE they have been working with Miss Turnbull, the PE teacher from, Staindrop Academy, who has been teaching netball in preparation for a tournament on the 14th February. She is very pleased with the skills that pupils are developing.

On Thursday Mr Preston, from Durham Music Service, is teaching African Drumming to all of the Year5/6 pupils. Mrs Maude and Mrs Kidd were extremely impressed at how the pupils are performing increasingly complex pieces and the children are thoroughly enjoying the sessions.

Open the Book

Our friends from church, the Open the Book Team, will be delivering an Open the Book session this week. They work together to retell a story from The Bible and children are always keen to volunteer, to act, sing and take part with all of the actions. This week the story is The Good Samaritan.

Measles – NHS Advice

I am sure that you have heard about the increase in cases of measles in some parts of the UK. Measles outbreaks happen when not enough children have been vaccinated. Measles can be a very serious disease, leading to ear and chest infections, fits, diarrhoea, and damage to the brain. Measles can also kill. Your child is at risk of measles if he or she hasn't had the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination. Two doses of MMR vaccine are needed to get the best protection.

If your child is due to have had 2 doses of MMR but has not yet received them, no matter what age they are, you should contact your GP to get them vaccinated as soon as possible. If you can't remember if your child has had any, 1 or 2 doses of MMR vaccine, check his or her personal child health record (the Red Book). If this doesn't help, speak to your local surgery.

There is further information available in the link below.

https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Wraparound Care –

Just a reminder about the service we offer for Wraparound Care. We have both breakfast Club and After School Club and this is open every day in term time. Breakfast Club opens at 7.45am and you can book in for the hour or from 8.15am for half an hour.

After school club runs from 3.30pm and you can book for 1 hour or 2. Can we please ask that if your child is booked in until 5.30pm that they are collected promptly.

If you do need to cancel a booking or for any reason you are running late for collection please contact school. Mrs Maude runs the club on Mondays and Miss Holmes runs the club Tuesday to Friday.

If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact school.



Winston and Ovington pupils

If you live in either Winston or Ovington there is free school transport available for your children. If you would like to use this service please contact school for further advice.

Key Assessment Dates

Please find below some key assessment dates for 2024

Year 1 Phonics screening- week beginning 10th June 2024

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check - test to be taken during the 2 weeks starting 3rd June 2024

Key Stage 2 SATS 13TH – 16TH May 2024

Leave of absence / holidays cannot be authorised during term time unless in exceptional circumstances and we are encouraging all families to try to ensure that their child's attendance is in line with the national expectation of at least 96% or above. Having good attendance gives your child the best opportunity to reach their potential in all areas of the curriculum. When having to sit statutory assessments/tests good attendance allows your child to be best prepared to sit these tests and to face assessments with greater confidence.

The Local Authority can now issue fixed penalty notices if a child has unauthorised absences, including for repeated lateness. In school we will continue to celebrate good attendance and award excellent attendance.

We do understand that on occasions your child may be ill and need to stay at home but if they are just feeling slightly unwell or have a mild cold for example we do encourage you to send them into school. If your child feels unwell first thing on the morning but then is fine by lunchtime do send them to school for the afternoon session.

We have staff trained to administer medicine who can provide Calpol/Paracetamol during the morning/afternoon for minor ailments. Please contact school for an Authority to Administer Non-Prescription Medicine or complete the form via Operoo. It would be helpful if you could send in some paracetamol, however we do have a very small supply for emergencies.

C Riley

Quick Reminder

Start of School Day

Please note the school day starts at 8.55am. Thank you for getting your child/children to school on time. Helping your child to arrive at school on time ensures they can then line up with their friends before the start of the school day leading to a smooth start for the day ahead.

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



Attendance w/e 26/01/2024

Our Minimum Target is 96%

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

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

Class	Attendance %
Swale	96.87
Wear	95.00
Tees	91.00

Gold Headteacher Awards

Each week in our Celebration Worship assembly Gold Headteacher's awards are presented to some children who have excelled when working towards our theme of the week. The theme was writing

Class Swale	Bonnie Charlotte
Class Wear	John Sophie
Class Tees	Lucy Emily

Diary Dates

Please see our Diary dates for the autumn term/start of the new term at the end of this newsletter

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Multi-Sports

With Kyle for Y2-Y6

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

They are be planning lots of activities for this year

- **Spring term disco, 13.03.24**
- **Raffle ticket sale, Spring Term**
- **Games Night**
- **Family Quiz Time at the local pub! March 9th 4-6pm TBC**

Fundraising Car Boot sale Saturday 18th May morning time TBC

If you are keen to support our school and learn more about FoGS please contact school or drop FoGS an email gainfordforgs@gmail.com.

We are a Rights Respecting School

Article 2 No discrimination **Article 37** No child should be imprisoned **Article 39** Victims of war must receive special help.

Our latest Rights Respecting assembly for juniors focused on Holocaust Memorial Day which was on 27th January.



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 Oak have come out on top Well done!

OAK Winners with 348 points

WILLOW 298

SYCAMORE 312

Diary Dates – Whole School

Weekly

Tuesdays	Multi Sports 3.30pm-4.30pm	Y1 - 6	6 Sessions – Spring Term 1
Wednesdays	Mini Disciples 3.30pm-4.30pm	Class Wear & Class Tees	6 Sessions – Spring Term 1
Wednesdays	SATS Booster Club	Year 6	17/01 24/01 07/02 14/02 06/03 13/03 27/03 17/04 24/04

Events

06/02/2024	Parents Meeting Consultation on Academy		4.45pm to 5.45pm
14/02/2024	Netball Tournament at Staindrop	Class Tees	During School Hours
16/02/2024	Break up for Half Term	Return to School 26.02.2024	
07/03/2024	World Book Day	Whole School	During School Hours
09/03/24	Family Quiz Time	All welcome	Cross Keys time tbc
13/03/2024	Discos	Swale Tees and Wear	3.30-4.30pm Swale 4.30-5.30pm Tees and Wear
20/03/2024	Football at Staindrop	Class Swale	During School Hours
21/03/2024	Multi Skills at Staindrop	Class Tees	During School Hours
25/03/2024	Parents Evening	Class Wear & Tees	3.40pm to 6pm
26/03/2024	Parents Evening	Class Swale	3.40pm to 6pm
28/03/2024	Break up for Easter		
15/04/2024	School Closed	Staff Training (CPD)	
16/04/2024	School Reopens		
18/05/2024	Car Boot Sale	In school grounds	Morning times tbc
24/05/2024	School Closed & May Half Term Starts	Staff Training	
03/06/2024	School Reopens		
11/06/2024	School Photographs	Whole School	
11/07/2024	Colour Run	Whole School	TBC



GAINFORD C E PRIMARY SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER 29th January 2024

'Together we love, learn and flourish'

Term Dates

Spring Half Term	School Closes Friday 16/02/2023	Reopens Monday 23/02/2024
Easter Holidays	School Closes Thursday 28/03/2023	Reopens Tuesday 16/04/2024
Staff Training	School Closes Thursday 23/05/2024	
May Half Term Holiday	School Closes Thursday 23/05/2024	Reopens Monday 03/06/2023
Sumer Holidays	School Closes Tuesday 23 rd July	Reopens TBC

CPD /Teacher training Days – school closed to pupils

Monday 15th April 2024

Friday 24th May 2024