



GAINFORD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025

Low Road, Gainford, Darlington, Co. Durham DL2 3DR
Website: www.gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk

Tel: 01325 730274

Email: admin@gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk

Together we love, learn and flourish – John 13.34-35

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN GAINFORD

A Service of Remembrance will be held on **Sunday 9th November** at **10.30 am** on the village green in Gainford.

The service will commemorate the fallen of the two World Wars and offer prayers for all who suffer in conflicts past and present.

Parents and children are warmly invited to attend.



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Next week is **National Anti-Bullying Week (Monday 10th - Friday 14th November)**, with the theme: **Power for Good.**

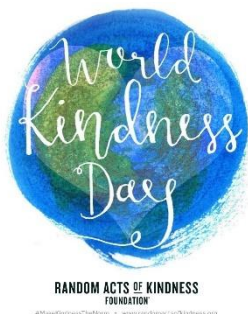
Our pupils will be learning about different forms of bullying and what they can do if they see bullying or if they are bullied. For the launch of this national campaign children were invited to wear **Odd Socks** for the day on **Monday 10th November**. Odd Sock Day is an annual event that marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week, encouraging people to wear mismatched socks to celebrate individuality and promote kindness



WORLD KINDNESS DAY

Pupils will be celebrating World Kindness Day in school on **Thursday 13th November**.

This day serves as a reminder of the positive impact that kindness can have on individuals, communities, and the world at large. In school we will be introducing Kindness Certificates and Nomination Notecards to celebrate and reward acts of kindness.



CHILDREN IN NEED

We're excited to be supporting **Children in Need** again this year! On **Friday 14th November**, pupils are invited to come to school dressed in their **pyjamas** or **Pudsey-themed clothing** for a **£1 suggested donation**.

All money must be paid via Parent Pay. Please **do not** send cash into school. All money raised will go directly to Children in Need.

Thank you for your support in helping us make a difference!



RECEPTION CLASS PLACES 2026

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 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 2026.

For more information, please contact School Places and Admissions Team on 03000 265896

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

Just a reminder that the law states that a Head Teacher is unable to grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances**.

We ask that parents complete a leave of absence form which is available on our school website or from the school office.

Please be aware that unauthorised absences on your child's attendance records could result in you receiving a penalty notice from the local authority.

5 days / 10 sessions unauthorised absence in a 10 week rolling period must now be referred for enforcement action.

Within a 3-year period:

The first penalty notice is **£160** if paid within 28 days, reduced to **£80** if paid within 21 days.

A second penalty notice is **£160** to be paid within 28 days.

A third penalty notice **cannot** be issued. **Legal action** may result (for example, prosecution).

Fines are issued per parent / per child, not per family.

Further information, including our **school holiday dates**, can be found on our website:

https://www.gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk/web/school_holidays/

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2208/Holidays-in-term-time>



PE DAYS – Autumn Term 2

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



Also, for PE lessons, we kindly ask that children either wear trainers to school or have a pair of trainers and socks (especially if they usually wear tights) packed in their PE bags – thank you.

ATTENDANCE & ABSENCE POLICY

2025-2026

Just a reminder that our **Attendance and Absence Policy 2025-2026** is available on our school website.

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 Swale & Wear Class who have achieved attendance levels in line / above this target. Class Tees you're nearly there! Fantastic work!

Swale	Wear	Tees
98.31%	96.36%	95.06%

Current Whole School Attendance is

96.17% 😊

Attendance Matters



PANTOMIME

The Whole School will be going to the Darlington Hippodrome on **Thursday 11th December (pm)** to see Goldilocks & the 3 Bears. We can't wait!



HEADTEACHER GOLD AWARDS

Week 5 – Being Helpful

Harriet, Camilla & Sophie

Week 6 – Caring for Others

Eachlan, Franco & Freddie

Week 7 – Showing Kindness

Florence, Lewis & Isobel



Keep Up the Fantastic Work!

FRIENDS OF GAINFORD SCHOOL (FOGS)– URGENT NEW MEMBERS NEEDED!

The Friends of Gainford School (FOGS) work incredibly hard to raise funds that benefit all our pupils. Thanks to their dedication, we've been able to provide opportunities such as Accelerated Reader, transport for school trips, and even our stage for performances. However, the same small group of parents has kindly led the committee for many years, and this will be their final year. **To keep FOGS running, we urgently need new parents and carers to get involved ASAP. Without FOGS, we won't be able to fund many of the "extras" that make our children's time at Gainford so special.**

Please consider joining and helping to make a real difference for our children. We know everyone is busy, but even a small contribution of your time can make a difference. If you're interested or would like to know more, please contact the school office - we'd love to have you on board!



**Volunteer's
Needed!**

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

A quick reminder that The Friends of Gainford School (FOGS) have set up a pre-loved uniform website, making it easier than ever to order school uniform at fantastic prices!

Most items are in excellent condition, with very little wear, and are priced at just 50p or £1. It's a great way to save money, reduce waste, and support our school community.

The ordering process is completely discreet; simply order online, and your child will receive their items to bring home the very same day.

All proceeds go directly to **FOGS**, helping to fund exciting events, trips, and opportunities for our pupils.

Why not take a look (simply click on the weblink below)

<https://uniformerly.co.uk/listing-category/gainford-cofe-primary-school-dl2-3dr/>



uniformerly



Are there children with neurodiverse needs in your family?



We're running **FREE** drop-in sessions to offer help and advice



You don't need to have a diagnosis to attend



Get information on health, wellbeing, education and care and more



Come along and chat to professionals, charities and local groups and meet other families too.



Sessions run across the county, find your nearest at www.durhamsendiass.info/dropinsessions or scan the QR code



SAFEGUARDING

At Gainford C of E Primary School, we are passionate about and committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and we expect all staff and visitors to share this commitment. Any concerns about children are passed through the members of staff who are trained as Designated Child Protection Leads. In our school, these are myself (Mrs Whitaker) and Miss Smith. We also have two link Safeguarding Academy Councillors - Mr Deakin and Mrs Hawlor.



Mrs Whitaker



Miss Smith



Mr Deakin



Mrs Hawlor

We have robust policies in place to ensure the well-being of our children. These policies underpin our practice and values shared by every single member of staff in our school. Copies are available from the school office or via our website <https://www.gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk/web/safeguarding/> & https://www.gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk/web/school_policies/

Please note that if you are ever worried or concerned about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Monday 3rd November** - Pupils return to school / Start of Autumn Term 2
- **Tuesday 4th November** – Parents Evening
- **Wednesday 5th November** - Y5/Y6 Multi Skills @ Staindrop Academy (am)
- **Monday 10th-Friday 14th November** – National Anti-Bullying Week
- **Monday 10th November** – Odd Socks Day
- **Thursday 13th November** – World Kindness Day
- **Friday 14th November** – Children in Need
- **Thursday 27th November** – KS2 Trip to Hardwick Park
- **Tuesday 9th December** – Swale Class Nativity Performance @ 9.30am
- **Wednesday 10th December** – Swale Class Nativity Performance @ 2.45pm
- **Thursday 11th December** – Whole School Pantomime visit
- **Thursday 11th December** – Christmas Jumper Day
- **Wednesday 17th December** - Christingle Service @ 9.30am at St Mary's Church, Gainford
- **Wednesday 17th December** - School Christmas Dinner Day
- **Friday 19th December** - Christmas Parties (pm)
- **Friday 19th December** - Last day in school / Break up for Christmas
- **Monday 5th January** – Pupils return to school / start of Spring Term 1

Term Dates 2025-2026

Holiday	Closing date	Date re-opens
Christmas 2025	Friday 19 th December 2025	Monday 5 th January 2026
Spring half-term 2026	Friday 20 th February 2026	Monday 2 nd March 2026
Easter 2026	Thursday 2 nd April 2026	Monday 20 th April 2026
May Day 2026	Friday 1 st May 2026	Tuesday 5 th May 2026
Summer half-term 2026	Thursday 21 st May 2026	Monday 1 st June 2026
Summer 2026	Friday 17 th July 2026	TBC

Teacher Training Days **2025-2026**

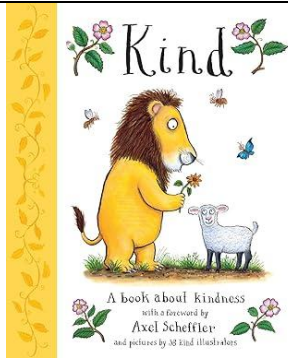
- ~~Monday 1st September 2025~~
- ~~Tuesday 2nd September 2025~~
- Friday 22nd May 2026
- Monday 20th July 2026



Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs. K. Whitaker & The Gainford Team x

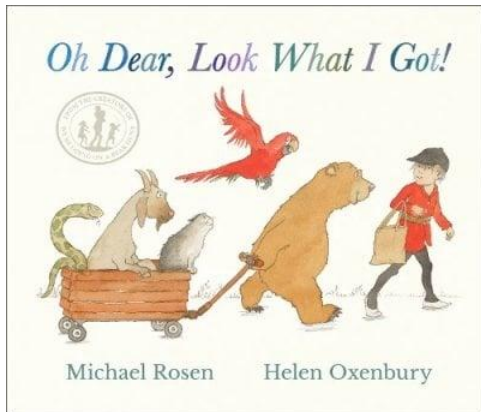
Recommended Reads



KIND BY ALISON GREEN (AUTHOR), AXEL SCHEFFLER (ILLUSTRATOR)

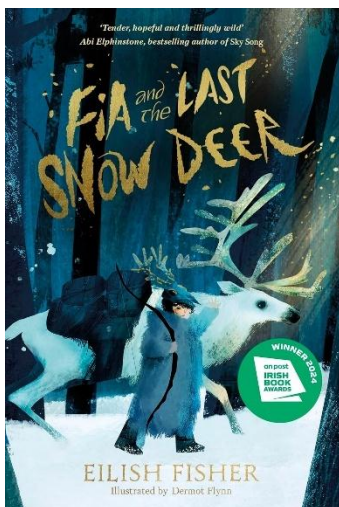
Imagine a world where everyone is kind - how can we make that come true?

With gorgeous pictures by a host of the world's top illustrators, Kind is a timely, inspiring picture book about the many ways children can be kind, from sharing their toys and games to helping those from other countries feel welcome.



OH DEAR LOOK WHAT I GOT BY MICHAEL ROSEN (AUTHOR), HELEN OXENBURY (ILLUSTRATOR)

From beloved author and illustrator pairing Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury comes a brilliant new picture book that will delight a new generation of children. Each visit to the shop brings an animal surprise in this playful read-aloud, with a final twist and a joyful ending. Young readers will love joining in the rhyming text and guessing what comes next in this hilarious picture book, sure to become a timeless classic.

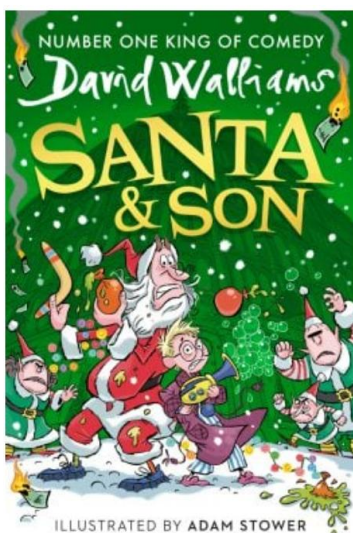


FIA AND THE LAST SNOW DEER BY EILISH FISHER (AUTHOR), DERMOT FLYNN (ILLUSTRATOR)

Born under the same solstice sky thirteen years ago, Fia and her reindeer Solas have a powerful and unbreakable connection. But now, struggling to survive a seemingly eternal winter, Fia's village turn their sights on Solas - both for the meat the last remaining reindeer can provide and an ancient prophecy promise that an ultimate sacrifice will once more return sunlight and life to the world ...

Refusing to allow the worst to happen, Fia and her cousin Mish run from the village with Solas, seeking out the Deer Mother - the mythical being who wakes the sun at the winter solstice and who they believe is their only hope of saving Solas and their village. But the wilderness is harsh and shadows lurk at every turn. Can they make it to the Deer Mother? And, if they do, what choices will they face to bring back the sun?

A truly timeless verse novel set in snowy pre-historic Ireland, about hope, kindness and the power of friendship, from exceptional new writing talent, Eilish Fisher, brought to life with stunning illustrations from Dermot Flynn.



SANTA & SON BY DAVID WALLIAMS (AUTHOR), ADAM STOWER (ILLUSTRATOR)

From number one king of comedy David Walliams comes his first Christmas caper - packed full of hilarious toy-shop action!

The perfect Christmas gift for kids of all ages,

Hilarious seasonal adventure from king of comedy David Walliams,

A fun, funny and heartwarming story for the whole family.

It's the night of Christmas Eve.

In the most famous toy shop in the world, a robbery is underway. The shop's Santa and his son are locked inside with the baddies.

Can our heroes stop them using just the toys in the shop as weapons? Pogo sticks! Bouncy balls! Remote-controlled helicopters! Bubble guns! Slime!

Slinkies! Stink bombs!

Santa & Son is a hilarious action adventure, and sure to become a Christmas classic.

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

Sun 30th November 2pm

This Christmas get creative, have fun and make something really unique with a Christmas wreath making workshop!

£40 per person (cash only)
Non-refundable

Glass of prosecco and mince pie on entry

Complimentary tea and coffee

Workshop lead by a fully trained and talented florist - Sofia Blooms



School lane, Gainford, DL2 3DR Maryann 07789864531

Contact Maryann to book your space today

We are Fundraising to give our Scouts an opportunity of a lifetime, to attend WINGS international jamboree at Windsor


Scouts
1st Gainford
Charity number: 792820


WINGS 2026


SOFIA BLOOMS

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

