



Joining a Multi Academy Trust

This week we have received an Academy Order that states in principle we can join the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust (DNDLT). I will keep parents, carers and pupils updated with any up-coming developments particularly in terms of leadership and I thank you once again for contributions made in the consultation period.

I know there are some changes ahead but this is also an exciting opportunity for our school to join a strong trust that understands our unique strengths and our strong partnership links with our community.

Open the Book

We must send a huge thank you to our friends from church who delivered an Open the Book session this week based on The Last Supper. With singing, costumes, sound effects and a super retelling of the story the children would certainly have a better understanding of the story delivered in such a fun way. The team are so fabulous that they then 'went on tour' to Ingleton to deliver the session there. I think they missed out at the Oscars they would certainly have had my vote!

Science Week

This week is national science week and as part of this the whole school had extra lessons and activities with a focus on STEM activities (Science ,Technology, Engineering and Maths)This was also linked with careers There was a real buzz around school with children being excited about science and excited to talk about their investigations .

Class Tees

This week they have learnt about properties of materials . As part of raising awareness about STEM careers Dr Broderick , a school governor , also spoke to the children about his career journey and the varied roles he had been involved in . The children developed their coding skills in Computing sessions and learnt about different scientists too.

Class Wear

Pupils planned and carried out investigations involving the setting of jelly finding it set quicker with fruit in it .- In computing they coded a time travel game and really enjoyed this . Investigations with flowers and dye have also got the children excited about the subject of science and wider STEM activities .

Thea 'The coding activity was good fun. I liked making predictions too. I would like another science week!'

Class Swale have been doing lots of timed trial investigations. The children came up with lots of their own ideas for investigations involving time. They have covered lots of areas of maths including measuring with trundle wheels and timing in seconds and minutes as well as collecting data .Miss Farley said **please** have a look on Tapestry to see what exciting things they have been up to-she knows if you are logging on!! and would love a few more comments to share with her class.



Camilla: 'I have got better at time this week. I used a watch and used the stopwatch on an iPad to time running and walking activities '

Multi skills Festival for Class Tees

Next week, on Wednesday 20th March, Class Tees will be attending a multi-skills festival at Staindrop Academy. This is a great opportunity for our Y5/6 pupils to have sporting sessions in a secondary setting alongside other schools. Children in Class Tees can come to school in their PE kits and school sweatshirt on this day.

Disco Dancing!

This week class Swale had their disco straight after school and thoroughly enjoyed the games, dancing and hot dogs. Tees and Wear enjoyed their disco finishing with a conga around the whole school with Mrs Kidd leading the way! Thanks to FoGS and to school staff for supporting this event; the children had great fun!

World Book Day

Oak Team

With Miss Watson all of the children in Oak worked on activities to do with 'The Gruffalo'. They followed instructions to make Gruffalo crumble and then made it.... and ate it! They shared their books with children from across the school and worked so well together.

Dexter: I enjoyed sharing the different books everyone had brought in and learning about the different characters.'

Sycamore Team

All of the children in Sycamore team worked on activities based on 'The Tiger who came for Tea'. There was time for stories, art and craft activities as well as lots of shared reading opportunities with older and younger children reading together.

Ivy 'I enjoyed the art activities based on the book, especially our tiger illustrations and pictures. It was great fun to see everyone dressed in their costumes and learn about their characters.'

Willow Team

With Mrs Kidd the children in Willow listened to the story 'Custard the Dinosaur' and also learnt about the work of illustrators, including Liz Million. They made dinosaur biscuits and worked on book covers as well as sharing their favourite books with children in their house team. The team book choice was very popular!

Pippa 'It was a really fun day and I enjoyed painting our own book covers. I learnt what illustrators do and really loved the story'

Ada 'I wrote my own story 'Vampire' at home and came in dressed as my own character called Fiona and I brought my own book in to share. I would like to be an author when I am older.'

I must say a huge thanks to our staff and trainee teachers for putting in so much effort and hard work to make World Book Day such a success!

School Meals



We have a wonderful cook in school and I have enjoyed very tasty school lunches this week and the summer menu looks very good. However, this week we have received notification from the Local Authority about price increases.

Please find attached a letter from the Durham School Meals Board informing all parents and carers about the increase to the cost of school meals from April 1st 2024. The cost will be £2.81 from April 1st and for our preschool children it will be £3.37. We certainly did not anticipate this rise in costs for our parents and carers. **Please note that this is not in any way a school-based decision.**

Children in receipt of Free School Meals and those children in the infants -Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to receive a free lunch. As a school we only receive £2.53 for Free School Meals and the Universal Infant Free School Meals and we have now been asked to budget for the shortfall which is 28p per day, per child certainly for the rest of this academic year. Hopefully the government will fund schools appropriately from September onwards.

If you have a child in school from Reception to Year 6 and your circumstances have changed please get in touch with Mrs Linsley if you think your child may qualify for Free School Meals as we can help to check this for you.

Easter Competition.

We are holding our ever-popular egg decorating competition. Your child just needs to take a boiled egg (they can use more than one if they like) and let their imagination run wild. In the past we have seen some amazing ideas and designs. There will be prizes for each class and we will also have an adult section - if parents/carers are feeling creative! All entries need to be brought into school on Thursday 28th March, our last day of term.

Gainford Baby and Toddler Group

Last reminder for Friday 22nd March at 9.30am when Gainford Baby and Toddler group will be holding their session at our school. It will have an Easter theme. Everyone is welcome and there will be refreshments available for adults and children. Hope to see some new faces coming along spread the word!

Extra-curricular Clubs

We are trying to offer a wider range of after school clubs for our pupils to enjoy during the summer term. Mrs Linsley will shortly be sending out our club offer for after the Easter break. We do listen to our pupils to see what kind of clubs they would like so hopefully there will be something for everyone!

I do hope that you all have a good weekend .

Regards

C Riley

Quick Reminder

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!

Appeal -We need your help



‘Together we love, learn and flourish’

We need junk modelling materials- egg boxes, cereal boxes, cardboard tubes , etc for some junk modelling sessions Miss Ross will be holding after Easter

Attendance w/e 15.03.24

Our Minimum Target is 96%

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

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

| Class | Attendance % |
|-------|--------------|
| Swale | 95.62 |
| Wear | 93.57 |
| Tees | 91.66 |

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 this week was for Science

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Class Swale | Lewis Jessica |
| Class Wear | Jacob Harry |
| Class Tees | Elizabeth Oliver |

Diary Dates

Please see our Diary dates for the remainder of the academic year at the end of this newsletter.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Multi-Sports with Kyle for Y2-Y6
Tuesdays 3:30pm – 4:30pm – places available

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

New Singing Club with Miss Cherrie Thursdays 3.30pm-4.30pm

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

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

We Need You !!

On Thursday March 21st at 9.00 am and 3.15 pm you are welcome to call in to school and learn more about FoGS. Do you think you could spare some of your time to help with our fundraising activities? We are a small team of parents/carers who work together to raise funds for school that benefit all of the pupils from pre-school to Year 6.

We really need more volunteers who could offer some time to support events in school. We really appreciate any help that can be offered. We will have a current member of FoGS available to speak with. Hopefully we will be able to recruit a few more volunteers so watch out for the flyer ! Thanks to Mrs Dawson who has already offered her support and who helped out at the disco this week. Every little help!

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! Who will win the house-point trophy at the end of the year ? It's a close-run race at the moment!

OAK 348

WILLOW 331

SYCAMORE 245

Diary Dates – Whole School

Weekly

| | | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Tuesdays | Multi Sports 3.30pm-4.30pm | Y1 - 6 | 5 Sessions – Spring Term 2 |
| Wednesdays | Mini Disciples 3.30pm-4.30pm | Class Wear & Class Tees | 5 Sessions – Spring Term 2 |
| Wednesdays | SATS Booster Club | Year 6 | 27/03 17/04 24/04 |

Events

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 20/03/2024 | Multi Skills at Staindrop | Class Tees | During School Hours |
| 25/03/2024 | Parents Evening | Class Swale, Wear & Tees | 3.40pm to 6pm |
| 26/03/2024 | Parents Evening | Class Swale | 3.40pm to 6pm |
| 27/03/2024 | Easter Service | St Marys Church All Welcome | 9.10am |
| 28/03/2024 | Break up for Easter | | |
| 15/04/2024 | School Closed | Staff Training (CPD) | |
| 16/04/2024 | School Reopens | | |
| 27/04/2024 | SATS Parents Evening | Y6 Parents | 4.30pm-5.30pm |
| 13/05/2024 to 16/05/2024 incl | SATS week | Y6 | |
| 18/05/2024 | Car Boot Sale | School Grounds | AM TBC |
| 22/05/2024 | Raby Castle Cricket | Y3 &Y4 | During School Hours |
| 24/05/2024 | School Closed & May Half Term Starts | Staff Training | |
| 03/06/2024 | School Reopens | | |
| 03/06/2024 | Multiplication Check Week | Y4 | |
| 10/06/2024 | Phonics Screening Week | Y1 | |
| 11/06/2024 | School Photographs | Whole School | |
| 12/06/2024 | Leavers Service | Durham Cathedral Staff & Y6 Only | During School Hours |
| 14/06/2024 to 16/06/2024 incl | Mini Disciples Launchpad Weekend | Mini Disciples | |
| 26/06/2024 to 28/06/2024 incl | Hummersknott Transition | Y6 | |
| 28/06/2024 | South Shields Trip | Class Swale & Wear | |



GAINFORD C E PRIMARY SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER 15th March 2024

'Together we love, learn and flourish'

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------|
| 10/07/2024 to 11/07/2024 incl | Staindrop Transition | Y6 | |
| 11/07/2024 to 12/07/2024 incl | Teesdale School Transition | Y6 | |
| 19/07/2024 | Colour Run | Whole School | AM TBC |
| 23/07/2024 | Break up for Summer | | |

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 03/06/2024 |
| Sumer Holidays | School Closes Tuesday 23/07/2024 | Reopens Thursday 05/09/2024 |