



November newsletter

Dear parents and Carers,

I hope that you have had a lovely half term and the children are well rested and ready for what looks like another busy half term in Galliard.

I want to start by thanking you for all the encouragement you have given to your children with the **Autumn Reading Challenge**. This year I am very proud to announce that 172 pupils in years 1-6 got to the end and many more made a very good effort. We will be gathering all the prize winners together in the hall after half term and giving out their special awards.

Reading remains our number one priority and it was fantastic to see so many Year 1 and Reception parents attend the RWI workshops last month. As we said in that meeting it is our job as teachers to teach your children the skill of reading but with you giving your children the chance to practise their reading skills at home and sharing stories with them, we can make sure they grasp this vital skill as quickly as possible. Just a reminder that children can take up to 25 books from Edmonton and Enfield libraries on any visit. With the costs of books being so high this is a very good resource and one I encourage you all to take full advantage of. The children in a number of year groups have also had the opportunity to meet a number of authors online last half term and this has brought to life the books they have been reading in class. We hope these experiences will inspire some budding authors here at Galliard.

Thank you also for your support with the **Book Fair** just before half term. This year we **sold over £1200** worth of books. This is converted into reward points and we will be able to buy some books for the school. **Birthday Books:** One of our parents had the lovely idea of buying a book for the classroom to mark their son's birthday. This is a great way to add to the classroom libraries. If you would like to do this, I am sure that class teachers would be happy to advise you about suitable books to donate.

'**Plant one Tree**' was a great success too and thank you to Mrs Wileman and the Eco Councillors for leading on this project. I am told **over £500** was raised and that will be put to good use planting trees across the world. It is great that here in Edmonton our children are making a positive impact on the wider world.

Sadly, our **Fun Run** had to be postponed due to poor weather conditions. Mrs Berman and her team will be looking at the weather forecast with great interest over the next couple of weeks and once they spot an opportunity, she will reschedule the run. In the mean time we encourage the children to collect as many sponsors as possible. Some of the proceeds will go to purchasing some equipment for the playground at lunchtime and I know this is something the children are keen to happen.

Medicines: Mrs Prygodzicz has asked me to remind parents once again not to send in medicines of any description in their child's school bag. **If you need medicine to be administered it must be labelled and taken by an adult to the welfare room.** Some paperwork then needs to be completed. As you will appreciate, we have rules and procedures which we need to abide by.

Clubs are going well in school and we have made the decision that they will continue as they are up to Christmas before being reviewed. This is because some of the clubs did not get started straight away. Clubs that have required payment – Impact sport and Stem will continue until their payment block is finished and we will then update you further. We are always looking for new ones to come on board and are in talks at the moment about a chess club and a drama club and we will email out details in the near future.

Muga: I am hoping that our Muga on the field will be finally open and used from shortly after half term. Sadly, we had some construction issues and these needed to be addressed before we could take full possession. This will make a huge difference to us as a school. In dry weather it will be used for PE lessons so taking them off the playground and at lunchtimes we will be able to offer structured games such as football and hockey again removing them from the playground.

BHM: Mrs Panayi launched the Black History Month competition again just before half term and the children have a one week after we return before the closing date to get their entries completed. October is known as the month where a spotlight is shone on the contributions made to society by black people but like many schools we have made sure that we have designed our curriculum to reflect the diversity of our school community and scientists, artists, authors and musicians from across many different cultures are given prominence in the classroom throughout the year.

Parents' evenings went very well and thank you for engaging with the new online booking system. As with all new systems there were a few teething problems but I was pleased to be able to take some of the administration and paperwork associated with these occasions off my teachers so they can stay focussed on their main thing- teaching and learning. I hope you noticed how lovely the school was looking and took a moment or two to admire some of the displays that were up and around the school.

Some lovely **trips** have taken place last half term and this includes Year 6's visit to the National Gallery and then on to the Houses of Parliament. It was quite a week to be in and around Westminster and all the children I spoke to thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Thank you to all the teachers and support staff involved in putting these trips together.

Reward system: Our Reward system is now fully underway and if your child is in years 1-6 I hope they have been talking to you about the effort chart stickers and how these will be exchanged for badges. I was fortunate to attend an Achievement Assembly in Years 3 and 4 last half term and hand out the first yellow badges. The children were very proud.

ESafety: Our trainer was forced to postpone last month due to sickness but the meeting has now been rescheduled for **November 25th online between 5-6pm**. You will need to book a place using the link below. This webinar from Prevent Enfield will cover the fundamentals of online safety and social media, before covering some of the heightened risks of radicalisation in the online space.

Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parent-online-harms-workshop-tickets-441551872537>

Anti- Bullying week: We will be focussing on this year's theme, 'Reach Out' in the first week back. Ms James has organised for a theatre group to come into school and the children in KS1 will have a show that will explore the theme at an age-appropriate level and this will be followed by one for KS2. Year 6 will have individual class workshops in the afternoon.

School Parliament: We have completed our school survey and soon after half term our families of Class Councillors and MPs will meet and put together an action plan. I had afternoon tea with our elected MPs last week and we talked more about what their role involved and how we would be working together to improve the school. Each month I have asked a different MP to write a piece for the newsletter so you can see for yourself how pupil voice can have a positive impact on school life.

Hello, I am Umar and I am one of the 6 elected MPs. Each month one of the MPs will be writing a piece for the parents' newsletter. We will be keeping you up to date with what we are doing in school and how pupil voice is having a positive impact.

After the Harvest Festival, we were lucky enough to see where the donations go. We went to the food bank and saw how the food was kept, sorted and distributed. It was a great experience.

The whole school took part in a survey and as an MP we have looked at the data and in our first meeting after half term we will be pulling together an action plan with the Class Councillors.

I am really enjoying having this post of responsibility and escorting the parents to the hall during the parents' evening and talking to them about what we are doing at Galliard is helping me grow in confidence. After half term, you will see us all helping to sell some poppies to support the work of the British Legion and I am proud to be part of this.

When we meet with our families our first job will be to decide what our family will be known as and we are currently researching public figures who have worked hard to promote democracy and equality in the world and we hope we will find inspiration there.

Finally, we do have some plans for some fun events to get underway once again in school and we will be working with Friends of Galliard to put on a disco for years 3 and 4 this term as well as a film night for years 1 and 2. More details soon.

Kind regards

Umar 6W

Poppies:

Poppies have been sent to school by the British Legion and we are happy to sell these on their behalf. Our MPs will be at the school gates from Tuesday – before and after school so please support here if you can.

November and December are busy months so I have shared as many dates below as possible. I have also asked my office staff to make sure when important information is being shared via email that a pointer text is sent to bring this to your attention.

Parent Governor Elections: We have had four parents interested in standing for the post of parent governor. There are 2 vacancies. We are preparing to go to election and you will receive the relevant paperwork on Tuesday and you have 7 days to vote. All the information needed will be sent out in a separate letter.

NOVEMBER	
Wed 2nd	Theatre Group in school Anti bullying week focus
Thurs 3rd	School Parliament meeting
Fri 4th	4P visit to Edmonton Green Library
Wed 9th	Governor-in-day
Fri 11th	Animals visits for Caterpillars/Nursery and Reception Fluoride Varnish for Nurs/Rec/Yr 1 4Mc Visit to Edmonton Green Library
Mon 14th	4R visit to Edmonton Green Library
Tues 15th	5P/5T Gallery workshop -in school
Wed 16th	5B Gallery workshop -in school

Thurs 17th	Fluoride Varnish catch up for absent pupils
Fri 18th	Children in Need wear something spotty and bring a £1 3S to visit Edmonton Green Library
Mon 21st	Choir festival – at Bowes School – years 5 and 6 choir to attend 3B to visit Edmonton Green Library
Tues 22nd	Daffodil class off to visit the bus terminal
Wed 23rd	9am Reading meeting for Year 2 parents Bluebell class off to visit the Bus Terminal
Thurs 24th	Poppy class off to visit the bus terminal Disco for years 3 and 4 5.00-6.15pm
Fri 25th	Animal Encounters in school for year 1 3M to visit Edmonton Green Library Esafety meeting online 5-6.00pm Link sent Caterpillar, Bumblebee and Butterfly class Story café 10.30am and 2.30pm
Mon 28th	Sunbeam to visit the Edmonton Green Library
Tues 29th	9.15 Guitar concert for Year 4 parents

DECEMBER	
Fri 2nd	Flu nasal spray vaccines Film Night for years 1 and 2 4.30-6.30
Mon 5th	2.30pm: Yr 1 Christmas performance – tickets required
Tues 6th	6pm: FOG Christmas Carol Concert -tickets required
Wed 7th	9.30am: Yr 1 Christmas performance -tickets required 2.30: Reception Christmas performance – tickets required
Thurs 8th	9.30: Reception Christmas performance – tickets required Choirs to visit the Sunbridge Care home at 2pm
Fri 9th	Christmas Jumper and Christmas dinner day Nursery and Caterpillars Christmas concert – details to follow
Mon 12th	Yr 4 take part in an Opera workshop Yr 3 class parties
Tues 13th	Panto in school for KS1 Yr 4 class parties KS1 and Reception class parties
Wed 14th	Bike ability years 3 and 4 Yr 5 and 6 class parties 3.20 Christmas Carols for parents and children around the tree and raffle
Thurs 15th	Bike ability years 3 and 4 Hanukkah assembly for year 2 led by 2C
Fri 16th	School closed from 2pm



Our netball team.

Plant one tree for £1. Our Eco Councillors





Year 4 enjoying their Ancient Greece Day



Year 6 at the National Gallery



Makin a pencil xylophone and cardboard periscope at Stem Club