

GALLIARD PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter

March 2022

Be The Best That You Can Be!

This Newsletter can be accessed on our school website:

www.galliardprimaryschool.co.uk

Dear parents, carers,

You will see from all the events below how busy we are this month in school. This is such a lovely time of year with World Book Day and trips getting underway.

Thank you to all of you who were able to make it in for our parents' evenings last half term. It was great to see the children excited to show off all their work. As I have said before we must work closely together to support your children achieve the best outcomes they can.

On a different note, the situation unfolding in Ukraine at the moment is very sad and as you would expect raising some questions and comments in the classroom. Our teachers are addressing any questions in a calm and sensitive way. Our aim will always be to calm anxieties and reassure the children. I have attached an article from *First News* a newspaper for children which you as parents may find useful.

POETRY COMPETITION:

Children across Enfield were invited to write a poem to celebrate the Queen and all things royal to mark her Platinum Jubilee. The winners' entries will be published in a book and this will be sent to the Queen and will be available for purchase on Amazon. Mrs Benjamin was so impressed with the quality of the entries from our pupils and we are so proud to say a number of those have been chosen to be published in the book. Well done to everyone who took part. Winners will be announced on our website next week.

WORLD BOOK DAY:

It was great to see so many children arriving to school today in their costumes. Days like today raise the profile of reading and encourage a love for reading. The children will take part in lots of different activities throughout the day and I am sure will coming home buzzing with excitement. Keep an eye on our website and you will see lots of photos and videos capturing the excitement of the day. Thank you to Mrs Donaghy who has worked hard to make this a fun and engaging day for everyone here at Galliard.

Readathon: On Monday we launch the Read for Good Readathon. As I have mentioned before there is lots of research that has proven that children who read for pleasure are more likely to be successful and happy throughout their lives. We want to inspire reluctant readers to have a go and keen readers to read more widely. The money they raise through sponsorship helps to provide a regular supply of brand-new books and a resident storyteller to every major children's hospital in the UK. By supporting your children with the Readathon you are not only encouraging a love for books but you are also encouraging them to look beyond themselves and show kindness to others. We are very excited to be involved in a project like this.

SECOND HAND BOOK SALE:

Later this term, we hope to have our first second hand book sale in school. We are asking children to look at home for books which are in good condition and ones they feel they can part with. They will donate these to the sale and the proceeds we make from the sale will feed directly back in to buying more books for our classrooms. **I will let you know when we would like the children to bring in the books.**

TRIPS IN THE SPRING TERM:

School trips are an important part of school life and can often bring the curriculum to life for the children. I am delighted to see trips being planned by the teachers. Our Sunbeam children recently joined children from other ARPs and special schools across Enfield at a bowling event and had a brilliant time. I know our Reception children are also looking forward to visiting the zoo next week and later in the month the year 1 children will be

having the company Animal Encounters into school. Parent pay- our cashless online system will allow parents to plan and pay in instalments for any upcoming trips.

I am also keen to make the most of any free offers that come our way. We have 40 tickets for a visit to the Royal Albert Hall later in the month and we are starting a Wake up and Shake up class for year 6 later on this month.

PARENT READING IN RECEPTION:

This month we see the start of parent reading in Reception on a Friday. This is a lovely opportunity to come in and read with your children and to see the learning in action in the classroom.

PARENT WORKSHOPS:

These have started again and we will focus on maths and we are also inviting parents back from Year 1 and Reception to deepen their understanding of RWI our phonics programme. We will be looking at the reading books that we send home to support the children practise their early reading skills. All workshops are booked online and we will send out the booking forms shortly. If you aren't able to attend don't worry. The sessions will be filmed so you can watch when you have some time.

WEBSITE:

We are beginning to populate our year group pages on the website. If you have a few moments, please do have a look and hopefully it will give you an insight into some of the lessons and learning opportunities we have going on in school.

HOUSE CAPTAINS:

Our House and Vice Captains have been very proactive and have had meetings with our site team, Mrs Athanasi and myself. They have collected views from across the school on topics such as the playground, toilets, the lunchtime and lessons in the classroom. They are already having a huge impact and are supporting the Senior Leadership Team improve school life. This week and next they will be making some short videos to share what they have been working on with the rest of the school.

HELP NEEDED

We are asking if there are any keen gardeners out there who would like to come in and help get our allotment ready for planting. It does need a bit of hard work and some expertise. If you are able to support with this please speak to Mrs Berman.

ESAFETY:

This is incredibly important and we will be sending out a half-termly newsletter which will support you in keeping your children safe online and give you an update about current and popular apps with children.

PARKING:

Just a gentle reminder to all who travel by car to school. Please drive carefully and park considerately. We are a community school and we value the relationships we have with all our local residents.

TURKISH SURGERY: Just a reminder that Ms. Ahmet is available on Thursday afternoons from 2.30pm to support any Turkish speaking parents with school matters.

ATTENDANCE: We would like all parents to know that our target for school attendance remains at 96%. Please report your child's absence from school before **9.30am** by telephoning 0208 8804 1818 and advise us of the reason for your child's absence. It is very important that your report the reason for every absence so we can effectively manage infection control in the school. Your co-operation would be greatly appreciated. In these difficult times, we would ask you to try to phone or email the school office if possible, rather than try to queue for reception.

NUT ALLERGIES: We are a healthy eating school and several of our children have severe nut allergies. Please **DO NOT** send any child into school with nut products (peanut butter, nutella etc) or chocolates or biscuits and cakes containing nuts in their lunch boxes. Even the smell of these products can cause an allergic reaction to another child sitting nearby.

Kind regards,

C. Clifford (Mrs)

Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR MARCH DIARY:



MARCH	
Tues 1 st March	Maths meeting for parents 9am Yr5
Tues 2 nd March	RWI meeting for parents 9am Yr 1
Wed 3 rd March	World Book Day
Mon 7 th March	Readathon begins
Tues 8 th March	Maths meeting for parents 9am Yr1
Wed 9 th March	Reception visit to Colchester Zoo
Thur 10 th March	RWI meeting for parents 9am Rec
Fri 18 th March	Comic Relief – Wear Red with a £1.00 donation
Fri 18 th March	Classical Concert at the Albert Hall tbc
Thur 24 th March	Yr1 Animal Encounters visit to school SATs meeting for Yr 6 parents
Tues 29 th March	Second Hand Book sale
Frid 1 st April	Term ends -school finishes 2pm

How to talk to children when the news is scary.

by First News Editor in Chief Nicky Cox MBE



1. Don't try to turn off the news when there is bad news. Sadly, in the technological world in which we live, adults are no longer in control of how children access information. News comes at us 24 hours a day from dedicated news channels, radio, the internet, and newspaper headlines. Even if you manage to shield your children from all of that, things that happen in the news will be talked about in the school playground or lunch hall. Better that your child is armed with the real facts than hearing exaggerated, second or third-hand versions. Information is better than misinformation.
2. Even if your child doesn't mention bad news, don't assume they are not troubled by it. They may be worrying quietly inside. Explain simply what has happened, taking care not to use sensationalised words that tend to be used by the national press.
3. First News covers good and bad news in the paper and on our daily online news channel, First News Live! Use our content, made especially for children, as a platform to talk to children about the news. It is always created to explain what has happened but to offer reassurance, too.
4. Remind them that there is much more good news than bad news happening. And that there are many more good people than bad people.
5. Reassure them that they are safe here in the UK. And that there are lots of security and defence experts working hard to settle the issues in Ukraine. Tell them that this hasn't just happened out of nowhere and [read our explainer](#) with them. Knowledge is power.
6. Remind children that the best way to stay safe is to take care in their own daily lives. Children are more likely to have an accident in their own home than when they are out and about.
7. Hold them a little bit closer and for a little bit longer.

Smart TV / Streaming services

There are so many TV streaming services available now such as Netflix, Prime, Apple TV, Now TV and Disney as well as more families having Smart TVs, which connect to the internet and allow you to download apps and access YouTube for example. This means our children potentially have access to a lot more content, some of which may not always be appropriate to watch.

If your child does access content through these services then, as always, make sure you set parental controls so they can only view content that is suitable for their age.

Each service will have their own parental control settings with most of them using a Parental PIN so you can restrict what can be viewed (and purchased in some cases).



TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok. Users can watch musical clips, record clips (it includes lots of lip synching and dancing), edit them and add special effects.

Why should I be concerned?

You need to be aware that some of the videos may contain explicit language and sexual imagery, which may not be suitable for your child to view. There is also the risk of strangers contacting your child so make sure you have set up the appropriate settings.

If your child is using TikTok then we recommend setting the account as private (this is the default setting for users under 16 since Jan 2021). Even with a private account, your child's profile information such as their photo and bio are still visible so ensure your child understands the importance of not adding personal information (e.g. location, age and phone numbers) to this area. This article explains how you can strengthen your privacy settings and what features are turned off by default for accounts for children aged 13 – 15: <https://newsroom.tiktok.com/enus/strengthening-privacy-and-safety-for-youth>

Family Pairing

This allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's account. This will allow you to set controls such as restricted mode (limit the appearance of inappropriate content) and screen time management (control how long they can spend on TikTok each day). You can find out more here: <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/>

Challenges and Trends

Lots of them are fun and not harmful but sometimes they can be risky. TikTok have produced this resource to help you talk to your child about challenges and the potential risks: <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en-sg/online-challenges/>.

Blocking and Reporting

As with similar apps, there is the ability to report and block other users so ensure your child knows how to use these features:

- <https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/report-a-problem>
- <https://support.tiktok.com/en/using-tiktok/followers-andfollowing/blocking-the-users>



Fortnite – An update

Is your child playing Fortnite?

It is rated PEGI 12 for frequent mild violence which means it is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age.

It is important to remember that when rating games, PEGI do not take into consideration the communication features of a game. Fortnite does include a chat facility, which adds further risks.

What is Fortnite?

There are different versions of Fortnite, including a free-to-play Battle Royale game (although money can be spent

What do I need to be aware of?

- **Chatting to strangers and inappropriate language:** Fortnite contains voice and text chat. Due to the nature of the game, your child may be chatting to strangers and may hear inappropriate language. Ensure your child knows how to report players for any inappropriate behaviour.
- **In app purchases:** All users can

Parental Controls

Fortnite includes several parental controls to help you make it a safer environment for your child including disabling voice chat, filtering language and setting privacy settings. Find out more about parental controls here: <https://www.epicgames.com/fortnite/en-US/parental-controls>. **Also, remember to set up age-appropriate parental controls on the device your child is playing on as well.**

Further information

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gamingconsoles/fortnite-chapter-2-battle-royale-parental-controls-guide/>

BBC Own it keyboard and App

Did you know BBC Own It has a keyboard and app? Download the app on your child's phone to access the special keyboard, which will offer advice as they type and intervenes for example, if they're sharing their mobile number, the app will tell your child to 'think safe' before they send the message. Find out more here:

[https://www.bbc.com/ownit/takecontrol/own-it-](https://www.bbc.com/ownit/takecontrol/own-it-app)

app BBC Own it also has a dedicated area for you with video guides on useful topics such as 'the transition from primary to secondary school' and 'supporting children with social media apps' and links to other useful sites. Click below to access:

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit/curations/parents>

Apple Guided Access / Android Screen pinning

Does your child use your phone at times? Both Apple and Android give you the ability to restrict what can be accessed when they are using it, so you can restrict your device to the one app that your child would like to use (so all other features are disabled).

Use the following links to find out how to set it up:
Apple: <https://support.apple.com/engb/HT202612>

Android:
<https://support.google.com/android/answer/9455138?hl=en-GB>

LEGO Build and Talk

LEGO® have created Build and Talk to help you chat to your child about digital safety and wellbeing. Firstly, you pick an activity to do and then you read a story, ^{which} includes questions and conversation prompts, whilst they build with their LEGO®. This is a great way to start talking about online safety with your child!

<https://www.lego.com/en-gb/sustainability/children/buildandtalk/>

Whilst you're there, view their guides on key topics related to online safety

<https://www.lego.com/en-gb/sustainability/children/digital-child-safety/>

or play Doom the Gloom with your child, which will support them in using the internet safely:

<https://www.lego.com/en-gb/campaigns/kids/doom-thegloom.>