

# GALLIARD PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Newsletter

**February 2022**

*Be The Best That You Can Be!*

This Newsletter can be accessed on our school website:

[www.galliardprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.galliardprimaryschool.co.uk)

Dear parents, carers,

January has been a challenging month in school with so many staff succumbing to covid and having to isolate. I just wanted to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all my staff who have really pulled together during this period to keep school life as normal as possible for the children. To all our children at home at the moment self-isolating, we are thinking of you and wish you a speedy recovery.

January saw our first book gifting event in KS1 which was a great success. We are planning to renew some of the older stock from our library and this was an opportunity to make sure that those books were recycled and enjoyed by children at our school. It was lovely to see the children browsing and selecting books to take home to add to their own libraries. We are hoping to do a similar event for KS2 early next half term.

I have also been asked by many parents about donating books to school. We have planned a second-hand book sale for just before the Easter Holidays and this is when we will ask for donations of books in good condition to be brought into school. We will then sell these and raise some funds to replenish our books in the classrooms and the library. I will send some reminders out nearer the time.

**February 8<sup>th</sup> is Safer Internet Day** and all the children will be hearing about how they can stay safe online during assemblies this week. As parents it can be a challenge to stay on top of what our children are accessing online but please make time this week to have a discussion with them about staying safe online and not signing up for apps or playing games online that have an older age restriction.

### **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 here and I know Year 5 are looking forward to going to Suffolk next week to explore Anglo Saxon life.

Some of these trips do require a coach and that does unfortunately raise the price. Our office staff are working hard to find the best prices. All trips will be paid for on parent pay- our cashless online system and this will allow parents to plan and pay in instalments.

### **SWIMMING:**

Swimming has got underway for Year 4 and I joined them last week for a session. Swimming is a statutory part of the PE curriculum and a life skill. It is so important that the children develop water confidence. I am pleased to say the children were showing great determination and the progress even in the course of one session was clear to see. Well done Year 4!

### **READING CHALLENGE FOR RECEPTION CHILDREN:**

Getting children interested in books early on is a priority as we know how much of a positive impact this can have for the children and their learning. Our Reception teachers have launched the challenge and it is a joy to see how much this has excited the children.

## **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.

## **BOOSTERS AND MASTER CLASSES:**

Booster classes for Year 6 and master classes for Years 2 and 4 are continuing. Thank you for supporting us with making sure if your child has been invited that they attend on a regular basis. Thank you to my staff for giving up their time and working hard to improve the outcomes for the children.

## **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:**

Next week sees our first meeting of the council and thank you to the captains for gathering the suggestions and comments from pupils across the school. This week we will be arranging for the captains to meet with key people across the school and together they will work on making improvements.

## **PARENT EVENINGS:**

We are hoping to go ahead with our face-to-face parent evenings the week before half term. Please support us by turning up just before your appointment to avoid unnecessary over crowding in the corridors. If you have access to LFTs tests, please take one before coming and wear a face covering in all the communal areas. This will be an opportunity for teachers to discuss the progress your child has been making and some of their next steps that they will be working on in school and you can support them with at home.

After your appointment, don't forget to check out the book fair in the small hall. Funny Feet will relocate to 6P for the two nights. **Please also note that the school will close from 5.00 to 5.45 on Wednesday and all parents will be asked to leave the site.** Teachers will be given a break and we will reopen the doors at 5.45pm.

## **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 FEBRUARY DIARY:**



<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Maths workshop for parents Year 4
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Great Fire of London Workshop for Year 2 in school
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Book Fair arrives in school
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Anglo Saxon trip for Year 5 Reception hearing tests in school
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Parents' Evening 3.30pm -7.30pm
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Parents' Evening 3.30pm -5.30pm
Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	School finishes normal time

### **Other important upcoming dates:**

Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Maths meeting for parents 9am Year 5
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	RWI meeting for parents 9am Year 1
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	World Book Day
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Maths meeting for parents 9am Year1
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception visit to Colchester Zoo
Thur 10 <sup>th</sup> March	RWI meeting for parents 9am Rec
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Classical Concert at the Albert Hall tbc
Thur 24 <sup>th</sup> March	SATs meeting for Year 6 parents
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Second Hand Book sale
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Term ends - <b>school finishes 2pm</b>