

Galleywood Infant School

Sunday 11th December 2022

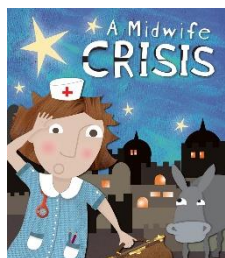


Dear Parents and Carers,

I must start with an enormous thank you to everyone who helped to make our Christmas Fair such a lovely event on Friday night. Many hours of work from the GIPA team and their friends and families made the hall, classrooms and Santa's grotto look sparkly and festive. Thank you to everyone for supporting us - we will let you know how much was raised once everything has been counted.



A Midwife Crisis



Children and staff are working very hard to ensure that the acting, singing dancing and music in our Christmas presentation is as good as it can possibly be. I hope you hear your children singing the Christmas songs on the way home, at bedtime and even in the car! Just a reminder to check your child's book bag for tickets. We have fulfilled everyone's first choice for 2 family tickets and have been able to send as many extras as possible, limited only by the number of people allowed in our school hall. I know we will have fabulous audiences each day!

Please remember that young children are only able to attend for the Tuesday performance.

We include all the children in each performance of our play and ask that all children come back to school for **5:30pm on Thursday evening** to take part in the final performance. We always have a very warm, appreciative audience and a hall full of excited children - a memory they will keep for many years.

We want as many people as possible to come and see your children's Christmas presentation and do not charge for tickets. However, we love the chance for our school to do something special for others and think carefully each year about which charities to support with the exit collections. This year we are thinking about real life heroes and will be donating half the proceeds to the Essex Air Ambulance, and also supporting Brain Tumour Research in memory of our lovely Mr Jonathan, who sadly passed away in December 2021. We hope families will enjoy every minute of A Midwife Crisis, support every child taking part, and contribute if you can to two very deserving charities. Thank you.

Christmas lights

When Mr Jonathan, our site manager, died after a short illness last December, a very good friend to our school Peter Seabrook suggested that we should plant a tree at the front of our school and decorate it with white lights each December in his memory. Peter gave me the name of a special Cedar tree, and now that the pirate ship project is complete, we will order and plant the tree he suggested. Many of you will remember that Peter Seabrook, who was 84 years old and extremely active, passed away last spring so the tree and the lights are for both Jon and Peter, missed by us all.



Wear a hat day



As we are donating the exit collection from A Midwife Crisis to Brain Tumour Research we will not be collecting money on Friday 16th December for Wear a Christmas Hat day. However, children are very welcome to wear a Christmas hat if they wish. We will support Wear a Hat day on 31st March 2023, the last day of the spring term raising funds for Brain Tumour Awareness month. Reminders about this will follow in March!

Post Box

Lots of children enjoy writing a few Christmas cards for their friends and teachers. Our post box has been found, dusted down and is now in action situated by the office. It will be emptied at lunchtime each day by our Year 2 post people. Who will sort the cards and deliver to each classroom. Please ensure the name of the person and the class are written clearly on the envelope! Thank you.



Farewell

We were sad last Friday to say farewell to Lalani Dona, who has worked with us as a midday assistant for over 3 years. Mrs Dona has a new job, enabling her to work for more hours whilst her children are at school. We miss her calm, gentle kindness towards everyone at lunchtimes and wish Lalani all the best for the future.

Welcome

We welcome Joan Aziz, who has joined our Foundation Stage team working in both Foxes and Badgers classrooms. Joan has joined our staff at a very busy time of the year, straight in at the deep end with our Christmas play rehearsals and wellie Wednesdays! We hope Joan will be very happy working with us.



Our spots and stripes collection for Children in Need on Friday 18th November raised a brilliant £218! Well done and thank you for all the donations.

PE days

Due to the performances next week our timetables will need to change. Please note that we would like ALL children to come in **active wear on Thursday 15th December** as Foundation Stage will have "Wellie Thursday" just for this week, and Year 1 and Year 2 will have PE sessions with Jane Gowers or with Katie Wilson.

Foundation and Year 2 children, who usually come in active wear on a Wednesday will be able to wear normal uniform that day, as there will be no PE sessions.

We will let parents know changes to PE days for the spring term at the end of this week and remind everyone just before the children come back to school in January. Term starts on Thursday 5th January 2023.

Please can we remind you that active wear is part of our uniform and that we ask children to be dressed in black or navy joggers and plain black or navy sweatshirt or hoodie. Thank you.

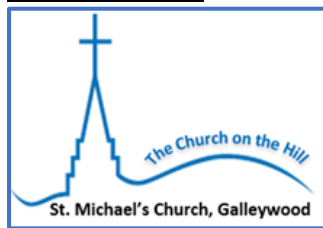
Christmas parties are being planned for all classes on the afternoon of Monday 19th December. Families are not asked to provide any food for the party as these take place just after lunchtime. Children are invited to bring some party clothes in a bag that morning to change into at 1:15 before the fun and games begin!



Cold weather

It is likely that we will be needing gloves, hats, scarves and warm coats for the next month or two. Please do your best to write a name somewhere on the label or inside these items so that we can return anything that is dropped or mislaid back to its owner! Thank you. If we have snow, we will clear a path around the outside of the building but leave the playground and field for playtime fun for children who have wellies in school!

Nativity Services



Parents with children in Foxes and Badgers classes are welcome to join us on Friday 16th December at 9:30 for a Christmas Nativity service led by Rev David Cattle.

Children in Year 1 and Year 2 will be walking to St Michael's Church on Galleywood Common on Tuesday 20th December, leaving school at 9:30am. I have spoken to David Cattle and he tells me he will be wearing his Christmas jumper for the



service- children are welcome to wear something festive, red, sparkly and fun for the last day of term, both for our Carol Service and then for our Christmas Dinner at 12noon.

There will be a Christingle service for families at St Michael's Church at 4:30pm on Christmas Eve.

Winter Reading Challenge



[Essex Libraries](#)' popular Winter Reading Challenge returns for another year. Around 5,000 children took part last year and it is hoped this year will attract even more participants.

The Winter Reading Challenge is being led by Essex Library Service, in partnership with Penguin books and the [Essex Year of Reading](#). This year's challenge will see children and young people tasked with completing challenges in an interactive booklet to help Lyra the penguin find out how others celebrate winter.

There are prizes for all children who finish the challenge, as well as a special prize to those who finish early. Just choose to complete any 6 of the 12 challenges to get your certificate, then bring it to school so that we can celebrate in Friday assembly!

Running from Saturday 26 November to Saturday 28 January, the challenge aims to encourage a love of reading and support literacy skills. You can sign up for this at any Essex library. Good luck and have fun!

United in Kind

On Friday our three midwives met with Kelly Coombs, United in Kind coach with the Essex Wellbeing Service, presenting her with Christmas cards and letters from all our classes. These will be added to 130 presents for local care homes and approx. 40 Christmas Treat Bags United in Kind are preparing for local dementia day centres. The Christmas Cards, pictures and letters from school children are included to bring the generations together. Thank you to our children and staff for enabling us to take part.



Car parking

We would like to remind parents that our school car park is very small and cannot be used for dropping off or collecting children unless you have a qualifying blue badge and have previously agreed this with the school. Exceptional circumstances such as collecting an unwell child during the school day can of course be arranged as a one off with the school office. Space is tight and inconsiderate parking often blocks others in. Thank you.

