

Galleywood Infant School

Friday 26th July 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,



We have reached the end of term and need to round off the school year with a few celebrations, and by signposting some local activities.

Some families and staff are already enjoying well deserved holidays- if so, apologies for disturbing your break and please ignore until your return!

We cannot close the year without celebrating the amazing learning that has been part of One World Many Colours; we are very proud of the new, vibrant entrance hall picture, which includes work from every class. The animals, birds and flowers make us smile and remember the children's rainforest song!



It was lovely to share our celebration of this term's learning with visitors on Friday 12th July. We brought together some drumming using djembe drums borrowed from Great Baddow High School, dances taught to us by Katie Wilson, our rainforest song, which Mrs Merry Bowley and Mrs Wade have been teaching us, and a range of storytelling, reading and poetry across the classes.



On Friday we said thank you and best wishes to Jenny Pick, who has worked as a teaching assistant in our Early Years Foundation Stage classes. Jenny is starting her SCITT training and hopes to qualify as an Early Career Teacher next summer.

The children and staff sent their love and best wishes to Lisa Bosley, who gets married this summer. We will all have to practise saying her new name, Mrs Keevil! All good wishes to Lisa and Steve for a wonderful wedding in August and very many happy years to follow.





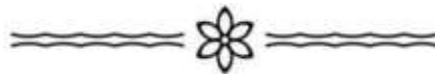
It was another amazingly successful year for GIPA, our brilliant parent group, who not only raise highly valued additional funds that benefit everyone, but achieve this by organising a varied succession of events and activities that add to your child's experience of school. Total for 2024-25 was in the region of **£11,500!** Wow!

At our AGM on 11th July we heard a summary of the year's achievements from Kate, outgoing chair, and said a very heartfelt thank you to Cat Davey, Lisa O'Connor, Marie Stallard and Kate Phillips, who between them have given more than 20 years of time and energy to GIPA and no longer have children at Galleywood.



Thank you, Ladies, you are amazing, inspirational and will be very much missed.

We welcomed Kathy Morris as new chair and Sarah Ditchburn as our new treasurer, both of whom have been shadowing the roles this term. A full newsletter from GIPA in September will include events planned, new fundraising goals well as the committee for 2024-25. New members are always welcomed- please get involved if you can, there are many ways to do this.



To end the year and to give our Year 2 children a fabulous send off GIPA arranged a Leavers' party with Skittleman, and funded a Leavers' tee shirt for every child. It was lots of fun, and the children were very proud of their colourful shirts. Thank you to everyone who helped with this event.



As we sort and reorganise our school for our new cohorts of children and place orders for classroom equipment from the tightest budget we can remember, we have compiled a list of items families might have at home and be willing to donate.

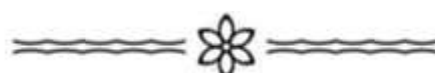
If you are having a clear out over the summer please bear us in mind, we would be very grateful to receive:

- Colouring pencils or felt tip pens for lunchtime and outdoor use
- Packets of chalk for Early Years
- Buttons for picture making, sorting, patterns and collage
- Fake plants, small rugs or lamps for equipping role play areas
- Full or partly used bags of compost for planting and gardening
- Toys to play with in the water tray- plastic measuring jugs, pumps, funnels, pouring containers, etc.
- Large plastic dinosaurs for EYFS dinosaur garden
- Fabric bunting
- Gardening gloves to fit children
- Comics in good condition for the reading shed suitable for children aged 4-7



In addition, I am also always very grateful for donations of used birthday cards that we can "recycle" for 5, 6 and 7 year old children or for members of our staff team.

Any of the above can be brought to school in early September. Thank you so much.



You will have many plans for summer holiday activities but don't forget some local ones are free:



If you have not already done so, visit Galleywood Library to sign up for the Summer Holiday Reading Challenge Marvellous Makers



<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk>

The scheme is free to all children- all you need to do is visit Galleywood library or another local library to join. For more information see the youtube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62gH-edhju4>

We have been notified by SENDIAS of some free local workshops- please pass this information to any friends and contacts who might be interested.



Free workshops to support parents with a child waiting for ASD assessment in Essex. They are delivered by East of England Autism Central. Each session will cover 'Communicating with your child and managing sensory needs'.

Sessions are available in July, August and September.

30th July at Danbury Essex Outdoors site

15th August at Mersea Essex outdoors site

18th September at Barleylands

Visit <https://www.essexsendiass.co.uk/> for enquiries or to book a place.

On Friday you should have received our new attendance policy and information. Our school terms and holiday dates are set by Essex and schools add 5 training days of their choice to the specified dates. These were agreed with St Michael's Junior School in the spring and are available on our website- please do check before booking holidays as I know some parents had made assumptions about closure dates this year and then received unauthorised absence notification.

Diary dates for the school year, including key GIPA dates, will be sent in the first week of term.

I wish all our families, staff and governors a wonderful summer break, whether you are at home or away. We will respond to emails during the summer although this may not be as prompt as usual.

admin@galleywood.essex.sch.uk or sarahmanning@galleywood.essex.sch.uk

Monday 2nd September is a training day for staff, when the school office will be open. Term begins for all children on Tuesday 3rd September at 8:45am with part-time arrangements in place for our new Foxes and Badgers.

