

Galleywood Infant School

Friday 4th October

Dear Parents and Carers,

Families have received numerous communications from us regarding day to day matters since the start of the school year. It is hard to believe that we have now been back for 5 weeks!

We aim to send a fortnightly newsletter with additional information about what the children have been learning, reminders about any upcoming events in school and sometimes in the local area as well as school celebrations and any staffing changes. Newsletter dates for the remainder of this term are as follows:

4th Oct, 18th Oct, 8th Nov, 22nd Nov, 6th Dec, 20th Dec.

We sent our best wishes to Miss Bosley in July for her wedding in August. Miss Bosley, now Mrs Keevil, has shared some beautiful photographs of her amazing wedding day! Congratulations!

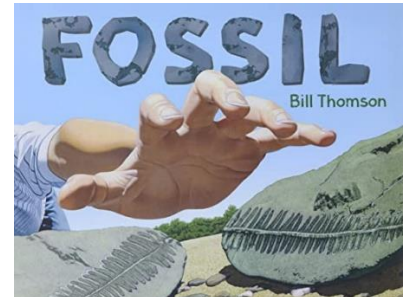
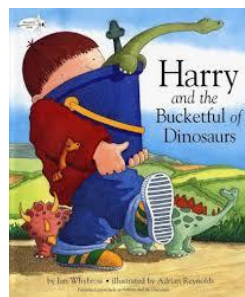
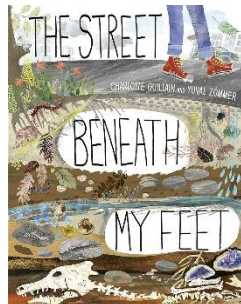
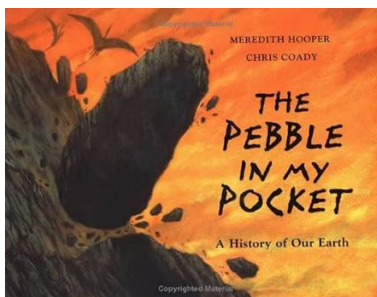


We are sad to say goodbye to Jen Hinkley, one of our team of midday assistants, and congratulate her on gaining a post as Learning Support Assistant in another school.

This week we have welcomed Miss Austin and Miss Smith to our midday team and hope they will both be very happy working with us.

Curriculum planning for 2024-25

There is a lot of information on our school website about the 6 learning themes planned for this year, starting with the question, "Where did you come from, pebble?" inspired by some wonderful texts, including:



We hope your child has been sharing their new learning with you, but we know that is not always the case!

Year 2 classes have been learning about Mary Anning and her life finding fossils on the Jurassic coast. They have focused on curiosity about the natural world. They are learning about fossils, how they are formed and what we can learn from studying them.

In art the children have looked at self-portraits by Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol, learning a little about the artists and their lives as well as the different art techniques and designs that have made them famous.



In maths Yr2 children have been putting numbers onto an empty number line. They are learning to use their knowledge of number 0-10 to place numbers on a grid or line to 100. Children practise their number bonds to 10 on the White Rose maths app- please download this brilliant free app for your child to practise quick recall of maths facts. <https://whiteroseeducation.com/1-minute-maths>

Year 1 classes have enjoyed reading and writing linked to Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs, and this week Harry and the Dinosaurs go to School. The children have loved remembering and sharing dinosaur facts about T-Rex, stegosaurus, triceratops and others.



In maths the children are comparing numbers using the symbols for greater than and less than. They have been rolling a dice, making a tower of cubes and using the symbols to compare this with their partner.

Learning in science has been about the changing seasons, looking for signs of autumn, going for walks around our school grounds and looking closely at different trees to compare leaves, fruit and seeds.

In music sessions with Ms Barnes, our music specialist teacher, the children used “boom whackers” to follow the C major scale and have been learning to read simple musical notation.



Foundation Stage classes have settled really well, enabling Mrs Foster and Mrs Keevil to complete the baseline assessments for everyone. Parents will have received a lot of updates and photos via Tapestry. Alongside lovely opportunities to play and learn in their classrooms and outdoors, the children are ready for some whole class learning now: they have had two weeks of phonics and daily maths sessions, two weeks of outdoor PE with their class teachers and also Forest Fun on Wednesdays. They have been learning about Sticky Starfish, one of our Galleywood Learning Stars, and also talking in classes about their own families and who is in their family.

Open mornings for September 2025 admission



Parents with a child due to start school in September 2025 will be able to make an application via www.Essex.gov.uk between 4th November 2024 and 15th January 2025. We offer three open mornings, this year on Tuesday 8th October, Wednesday 23rd October and Thursday 14th November, all from 9:30-11am.

Parents do not need to book for these sessions, but there are details on our website of six additional small group tours, which parents are able to book via the school office.

Please pass this information to anyone you know who will need a school place next year. Thank you.

After school play!

We love to see your children, together with older and younger siblings, enjoying our school grounds and wonderful outdoor play equipment. However, we ask parents to please supervise children properly, ensure you know where they are and remember that the gates are open at this time with access onto Barnard Road.



Please show your child our “no bikes and scooters” signs- we cannot allow children to ride bikes and scooters on the playground. I know how tempting this is with a big open space, but we have learned from past experience that accidents happen very quickly and we don’t want anyone getting hurt. Thank you

After school clubs

There are still some spaces on a Monday for multi-sports and on Thursday for dance. The clubs are led by our school PE and dance coaches who know the children well and run from 3:15-4:15pm. Please contact the office for more information.

Dates for this school year

Families received a full list of dates at the beginning of term - these have now been added to the calendar on our website.

Foundation Stage coffee mornings

For parents with a child in Foxes or Badgers, the first Early Years Foundation Stage Coffee Morning takes place next week on 17th October. We hope you will find these helpful and will use our school dates list to make a note of the half termly sessions. You are welcome to bring younger siblings. Mrs Foster and Mrs Keevil are always happy to adapt the content of the next meeting to include something parents suggest- do let us know!

Parent Consultations

We are looking forward to sharing your child’s work when we have our autumn parent consultations on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd October between 3:30-6pm. You will be sent a link via parent pay at the beginning of next week so that you can sign up for a day and time we hope will be convenient for you.

Carol Services

Our Christmas Carol service at the church Tuesday 17th Dec at 10am. Children in Yr1 and Yr2 will walk up to St Michael’s church. Families are welcome to join us.

Early Years classes will have their own short nativity service in school at 2:30pm led by Rev David Cattle, vicar at St Michael’s.



Educational visits

We can now add the dates of our summer educational visits- much more detail to follow about these:



Foxes and Badgers will be going to West Hanningfield Nature reserve on Tuesday 20th May

Rabbits and Squirrels will be going to Cudmore Grove Country Park on Mersea Island on Tuesday 10th June

Owls and Hedgehogs will be going to Cudmore Grove Country Park on Mersea Island on Tuesday 17th June

Contacting school

We know that for some parents it is not easy to get into school and speak with us and even when you are here, the drop off/ pick up times are very busy. We don't want parents or children to be worried about any aspect of school, so we welcome the chance to talk about any concerns or questions at an early stage.

If you request a phone call, staff members are usually able to call you at the end of the school day or sometimes during a lunch break if something is urgent.

If you email admin@galleywood.essex.sch.uk or for any sensitive or confidential matters sarahmanning@galleywood.essex.sch.uk we will forward the email to your child's class teacher, or to Kelly Fennell, SENCo.

There will usually be a member of staff in school by 7:30am and often staff are here until 6pm, although this varies a little from day to day. We endeavour to take phone calls and respond to queries promptly, but need to protect family time for all members of staff and ask you to understand that emails sent in the evening or over the weekend will usually receive a response the next working day. Thank you.

We have been notified of a Halloween event at Galleywood Library



Essex County Council
Libraries

This is a digital poster, please do not print

Witches and Wizards!

with special guest Magic Dave

Galleywood Library
Thursday 31 October 2:45-4:15pm

- Halloween-themed storytime, spook-tacular craft making, colouring and decorating your very own trick-or-treat bag
- Spooky magic and puppet show
- For children aged 3-11
- Tickets (via Eventbrite) £6 plus booking fee (supervising adults don't need a ticket)



libraries.essex.gov.uk

Although there is a cost for the Halloween activity, it is free to join the library and to borrow books as often as you wish!

It is a brilliant local resource right on our doorstep. The library staff will help you to sign up and then your child can start borrowing lovely books for bedtime stories, and maybe some of the books we have been enjoying in school!

The library is open every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday:



Opening hours for Galleywood Library

- Monday - Closed
- Tuesday - 2pm to 5:30pm
- Wednesday - Closed
- Thursday - Closed
- Friday - 9am to 5:30pm
- Saturday - 9am to 5pm
- Sunday - Closed