

Galley Common Infant School

Governors' Newsletter - Autumn 2023



We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter, highlighting the key information regarding our school over the past 12 months. Should you require further details please feel free to contact the school.

A message from The Chair of Governors, Mrs. Christine Paremain

Hello my name is Christine Paremain and I am very proud to be Chair of the Governing Body here at Galley Common Infant School. As governors we strive to ensure excellent outcomes for the students and build stronger links with the community and parents. We also want to ensure success is celebrated, to ensure a positive culture is maintained amongst the staff and students.

School Governors make important collective decisions about the school's aims, values and policies. We have a responsibility to the school and are legally required to fulfil a range of statutory duties. A good school Governor is someone who is passionate about children's education, is open to ideas, likes working as a team and is willing to ask questions.

The staff and pupils of Galley Common School have worked hard and have many success stories to share, including:

- We have successfully supported children, staff and parents through the pandemic by offering a restorative curriculum and signposting to support where needed.
- We have developed a high quality curriculum with a clear intent, implementation and impact.
- We have invested in further phonics and reading resources (including online) for children so that they have a variety of high quality to access at home and at school.

Strategic priorities

We'll be monitoring the school's strategic priorities, which for 2024-2024 are:

- Priority 1: Continue to meet the social and emotional wellbeing needs of the school community
- Priority 2: Improve the writing practice and progress so that most children meet or exceed the expected standard for the age.
- Priority 3: To embed the consistent approach to Learning Behaviours across the school
- Priority 4: Maximise the capacity of the teaching team so that progress and attainment of children is maximised

Charging Policy

We seek to enrich and broaden the curriculum for all of our pupils and we plan to make at least one visit each term outside school. Some activities are funded partially by the school fund and for some we request voluntary contributions. If these contributions are not forthcoming, activities may have to be cancelled. If you have any difficulties with funding these trips, please speak to either the Secretary or the Head Teacher and support will be made available.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding children is our highest priority. We have many policies in place in the school to aid the welfare of our pupils, including Behaviour, Health & Safety and Child Protection as well as risk assessments for all activities. Any adult working or helping in school is required to have a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check.

Behaviour

It is a primary aim of our school that every member of the school community feel valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly and well. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all. We aim to promote good relationships, so that we all can work together with the common purpose of helping everyone to learn.

Free School Meals/Pupil Premium

School meals are free to all infant school children. However, we urge you to still apply for Free School Meals if you meet the criteria as this will entitle you to other associated benefits such as free clubs and trips. Check your entitlement at - www.warwickshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

This funding, also called Pupil Premium, supports children so that they can achieve their full potential. This could be through resourcing, out of school opportunities and small group or individual support. Details of Pupil premium spending for 2023-24 can be found on the school website. As the Governing Body, we have decided to set aside a budget for children who are entitled to Pupil Premium funding each term to attend an after school club of their choice between September 2023 and July 2024.

Admissions

Galley Common School currently has an admission number of 54. School Admissions are arranged through Warwickshire Local Authority using the following criteria:

- 1: Looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- 2: Children who receive the Early Years Pupil Premium for their early years provider.
- 3: Children who are currently, or have been at any point since 1st September 2015, subject to a Child in Need Plan or a Child Protection Plan.
- 4a: Children living in the priority area for the school, who will have a sibling attending the same school in Year 1 or 2 at the time of admission in September 2023.
- 4b: Children living in the priority area for the school, who will have a sibling attending the partner junior school in Years 3 - 6 at the time of admission in September 2023*.
- 5: Other children living in the priority area for the school.
- 6a: Children living outside the priority area for the school, who will have a sibling attending the same school in Year 1 or 2 at the time of admission in September 2023.
- 6b: Children living outside the priority area for the school, who will have a sibling attending the partner junior school in Years 3 - 6 at the time of admission in September 2023*.
- 7: Other children living outside the priority area for the school.

The School Curriculum

The curriculum is divided into five stages:

- Foundation Stage - 3 - 5 years
- Key Stage 1 - 5 - 7 years
- Key Stage 2 - 7 - 11 years
- Key Stage 3 - 11 - 14 years
- Key Stage 4 - 14 - 16 years

At our school, we teach children in the Foundation Stage (Reception Classes 1 and 2) and Key Stage 1 (Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6).

In the Foundation Stage, children are taught through integrated topic work covering 3 prime areas of learning: Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Physical Development and 4 specific areas of learning: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. The children are assessed on entry and at the end of the Foundation Stage using a document called 'Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage'.

In Key Stage 1 the following subjects are taught: English, History, Art, Mathematics, Geography, P.E, Science, Computing, Music, PSHE and Religious Education, The Key Stage 1 children follow a Curriculum Map, based on topics that we know the children enjoy.

Special Educational Needs

Galley Common Infant School provides a broad and balanced curriculum for all children. In our school we aim to offer high quality education to every child, whatever their ability or needs. We have high expectations for all of our children and aim to support them to achieve their maximum potential. We aim to achieve this through the removal of barriers to learning and participation. We want each child to feel that they are a valued part of our school community. Special needs provision is monitored by the Special Needs Governor on a termly basis and findings from the monitoring are shared with the Full Governing Body termly.

Following feedback from Mrs Salmon, Learning Mentor, Governors found that the Thrive programme provides fantastic support to children to assist with their social and emotional wellbeing and their confidence and independence. We were delighted to see activities undertaken and the positive feedback from those children involved.

We ensure that children with Special Needs of any description are identified early & support is put into place. Where additional support is required, we may establish an Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan to actively monitor their progress towards their outcomes and longer term aspirations. We will then apply for further funding from Warwickshire County Council in order to provide additional resources, which may include learning aids or direct one-to-one support, to assist with the attainment and progress according to individual needs.

The SEND policy can be found on the school website.

How to contact us

If you would like to contact the Governors to raise any issue in confidence, you can do so either by letter via the school office or by email: admin2107@we-learn.com

For more information, visit our Governors page on the school website:

<http://www.galleycommoninfschool.co.uk/meet-the-governors/>

Have you had a chance to look at the school website? Here you will find a wealth of information, not only about the school Governors and how they support the school, but lots of photographs, which are updated weekly, showing things that go on in school. From the front page of the website you can open up our 'Outstanding' Ofsted Report and also have a look at the school prospectus (detailing everything you possibly need to know about the school!).

<http://www.galleycommoninfschool.co.uk/>

Our Reading Scheme

The school uses the **Monster Phonics** Scheme as the main basis for the teaching of reading in school, this directly complements the phonics learning in school. This is supported by carefully matched books from **Bug Club**. Monster Phonics texts and Bug Club can both be directly accessed online at home and at school. We also incorporate real books into our scheme to encourage broad access to reading.

Children read daily within the whole class, which supports their fluency and comprehension, and they read weekly in small groups with a teacher.

Their progress is recorded in their reading books for parents.

Please meet our Governors – If you need to contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Christine Parmain, please contact Mrs Arkinstall in the school office on 02476 392219 or Admin2107@welearn365.com



Mrs C Parmain - Chair of Governors
Mrs K Middleton - Head Teacher
Mrs Gordon - Staff Governor
Mr J Price - Co-opted Governor
Mr R Scott - Parent Governor
Mrs C Joyce - Parent Governor
Ms A Summers—Clerk to Governors
Vacancy - Parent Governor
Vacancy - Parent Governor

Attainment and Progress

The school has been very pleased with the progress made by children in 2022-23, particularly in the Foundations stage and Phonics in Year 1, where the vast majority of children entered school below age related expectations. This The vast majority made good or better progress in 2022—23, including groups of children. Our focus, continues to be to ensure the best possible progress for all our children.

Reception

73% of children achieved the GLD, an increase of 2% from the previous year.

Literacy	08	Comprehension	16% (9)	84% (46)	80.3
	09	Word Reading	25% (14)	75% (41)	74.7
	10	Writing	25% (14)	75% (41)	69.5
Mathematics	11	Number	20% (11)	80% (44)	77.8
	12	Number patterns	20% (11)	80% (44)	77.2

Phonics

80% of Year 1 children achieved the Phonics Screen Check in June 2023, an increase of 29% from the previous year.

End of Key Stage 1 2022-23

	Expected and above	Greater Depth
Reading	69%	25%
Writing	61%	5%
Maths	81%	19%