



Galley Common Infant School NEWSLETTER

Issue 15
December 2023

Dream, Believe, Achieve

SCHOOL NEWS

What an exciting time in school we have had this week.

Monday and Tuesday we had our Christmas disco's.

On Tuesday we had our special helper's assembly and then we enjoyed a lovely Christmas dinner. (Thank you Mrs Reynolds).

On Wednesday we had a visit from a theatre company who performed Dick Whittington for the children. This was funded by the Friends of Galley Common.

On Thursday we held our Golden Book assembly where 38 of the children were awarded certificates for 100% attendance this term. Team Murphy were given a certificate for the most team points this term. There were 6 children that had been chosen by the dinner ladies for good behaviour at lunch time, that joined Mrs Middleton for afternoon tea in her office. Well done to all those children.

We had our Christmas party day, and all the children looked wonderful in their party clothes and Christmas jumpers. We had a lovely lunchtime party and then in the afternoon a very special person came to visit the children at Galley Common Infant School. **Father Christmas** came in and had a chat with the children and then gave them all some Christmas presents!

Today we have been to church for our special Christmas assembly. Thank you to everyone that came along, we hope that you enjoyed it.



DIARY DATES

January

Mon 8th

Teacher Training Day

Tue 9th

School Opens for Spring Term

Teacher Training Dates

Mon 8th January

Friday 24th May



Tuesday 19th December 2023

In this week's Family Information Service newsletter there is information about festive activities at Warwickshire Libraries, ways to celebrate the season sustainably, tips to stay safe this festive period and much more!

The Family Information Service (FIS) supports families across Warwickshire with information and signposting. You can get in touch with the team by emailing fis@warwickshire.gov.uk; calling [0800 408 1558](tel:08004081558) or finding support on www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies. Head over to our [Facebook](#) to see where you can find the FIS team across the county this week.

If you would like to know more about FIS and where to find information and support on the FIS and SEND Local Offer webpages, book a place on an [online FIS discovery session](#).

Please click the [LINK](#) to access the newsletter

The staff at Galley Common Infant School, would like to wish all our parents, children and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Free School Meals

Schools should provide meal options for all children attending school. Meals are available free of charge to:

- All infant pupils (reception, year 1 and year 2) - known as universal FSM
- Pupils who meet the free school meals [eligibility criteria](#) - known as benefits - related FSM

If your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2, they will automatically be entitled to universal infant free school meals. However, if you do meet the benefits - related free school meals eligibility criteria, then it is advised you apply to receive additional benefits:

- [Holiday activities and food \(HAF\)](#) programme is for children aged 4 to 16, in reception to year 11, in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. HAF offers eligible pupil's access to activities and at least one healthy meal is provided during each session. The activities take place during the Easter, summer, and Christmas school holidays.
- [Pupil premium](#) is extra funding paid directly to schools for each pupil who is eligible for free school meals. It can help to fund valuable teaching and learning support to improve pupil's education.

You can apply for benefits-related FSM at any time online by clicking the following link:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/apply-free-school-meals>

If you have any questions or need support with applying, please contact the team by emailing freemeals@warwickshire.gov.uk or calling 01926 359189.



LEARNING IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES 2023/2024

KEY PRIORITIES	PRIORITY
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 their 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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of *Platt v Isle of Wight Council* which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance will result in the absence being recorded as an unauthorised absence.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority



GOVERNORS

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



Mr J Price - Chair of Governors
Mrs K Middleton - Head Teacher
Mrs Gordon - Staff Governor
Mrs C Paremain - Co-opted Governor
Mrs K Gilbert - Co-opted Governor
Mr J Parr - Co-opted Governor
Mr R Scott - Parent Governor
Mr C Joyce - Parent Governor
Vacancy - Co-opted Governor