



GAINFORD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

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Together we love, learn and flourish

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Tuesday 10th December** - Whole School Pantomime visit (Darlington) to see Sleeping Beauty
- **Wednesday 11th December** - Class Swale Nativity Performance @ 9.30am
- **Thursday 12th December** – Class Swale Nativity Performance @ 2.45pm
- **Thursday 12th December** – Christmas Jumper Day
- **Tuesday 17th December** – Wear Class (Y3/Y4) Multi Skills Festival @ Staindrop Academy
- **Wednesday 18th December** - Christingle Service @ 9.15am at St Marys Church, Gainford
- **Wednesday 18th December** - School Christmas Dinner Day
- **Friday 20th December** - Christmas Parties & Santa Fun Run
- **Friday 20th December** - Last day in school / Break up for Christmas
- **Monday 6th January** - Teacher Training Day / School closed to pupils
- **Tuesday 7th January** – Pupils return to school



PANTOMIME

The whole school will be going to the Darlington Hippodrome on **Tuesday 10th December @ 10.30am** to see Sleeping Beauty.
Many thanks to FOGS who have very kindly agreed to pay for the transport towards this.
We can't wait!



NATIVITY PERFORMANCES

Our Pre-School & Key Stage 1 pupils will be performing "The Nativity" this year.

There are 2 performances:

Wednesday 11th December at 9:30am
Thursday 12th December at 2:45pm

Please let us know via the Office / Google Form (sent via Operoo), what day you plan on attending, and the number of seats required – thank you.

Instead of charging parents for tickets this year, we ask that you kindly donate an item for a raffle to win a festive hamper.

We will be hosting the raffle on both days for parents to buy tickets. A strip of raffle tickets will be £1 per strip. Photographs of the Nativity will also be available to pre-order (£1 each) near the Main Entrance.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE / CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Christingle Service will be held on **Wednesday 18th December**.
Everyone is welcome to come along to St Mary's Church, Gainford for **9.15am**.
Pupils will also be having their Christmas lunch that day in school.

If your child has a packed lunch and would like to have a Christmas dinner, please let us know by Friday 13th December at the latest – thank you.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

We are supporting the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day on **Thursday 12th December**. Please donate a voluntary contribution of **£2** if you can, and **wear your Christmas jumper (non-uniform day)**. All money raised will go to Save the Children – thank you!



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Children are welcome to send Christmas cards to one another or to their class. Please could we ask that all cards are brought into school by **Wednesday 18th December** so that they can be sorted and given out to pupils. Unfortunately, due to data protection, we are unable to provide class lists.



CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Each class will be having a Christmas party on the afternoon of **Friday 20th December**. Pupils are welcome to bring a party outfit / non-uniform to change into after lunch if they wish. **Please could we ask for a £1 donation via ParentPay for party food – many thanks.**



HEADTEACHER GOLD AWARDS

Week 9 – Showing Creativity

Abigail, Jessica & Dexter

Week 10– Being Resilient

Esme, Lachlan & Ivy

Week 11 – Showing Confidence & Perseverance

Finn, Freddie & Georgia

Keep Up the Good Work!



AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Just a polite reminder that our after-school club will be **closing early (4.30pm) on the last day of term - Friday 20th December.**



SWIMMING

Class Wear pupils will start their swimming lessons in the New Year. Week commencing **13th January 2025** for 12 weeks at Teesdale Leisure Centre. We will let you know the exact day/date once they confirm this with us.

If they can bring a towel, one-piece swimming costume/swimming trunks or shorts. If they would like to wear swimming goggles these are permitted but not essential. Any child with long hair must have this tied back for the lesson.



PE KITS

PE kits will be sent home before the end of term.
Can you ensure that your child brings their PE kit back to school in the New Year and leave it in school Monday to Friday or for the half term.



WEAR CLASS SPORTING EVENT

Pupils from Wear Class will be participating in a Y3/Y4 Multi Skills Competition at Staindrop Academy on **Tuesday 17th December (9.30am-11.30am)**. Our staff will accompany the pupils and parents do not need to attend. This is for your information only.

As the weather is getting colder just a gentle reminder that all children need to have the **correct** PE kit - a PE hoody, plain navy/black jogging bottoms or school jogging bottoms, school PE t-shirt, trainers and a water bottle, please.

If your child wears stud earrings and they are unable to take them out, then you will also need to provide plasters – thank you.

ATTENDANCE & ABSENCE POLICY 2024-2025

Just a reminder that our **Attendance and Absence Policy 2024-2025** is available on our school website.
https://www.gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk/web/school_policies/

This has been updated in line with updated Government guidance and regulations including information linked to the new national framework on issuing penalty notices.

I would be grateful if you could ensure you read this document carefully and are fully aware of the legal requirements around attendance - thank you.

ATTENDANCE

Our Minimum Target is 96% Well done to all classes who have achieved attendance above our minimum target. Super work! 😊

<u>Swale</u>	<u>Wear</u>	<u>Tees</u>
97%	98%	98%

Current Whole School Attendance is **97%**
Amazing Work - Well done everyone!

Attendance Matters



RECEPTION CLASS PLACES 2025

If you have a child who turns five between 1 September 2025 and 31 August 2026 you can now apply for a school place.
Visit www.durham.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces where you can access a useful guide to help with your application. Online applications are encouraged but paper application forms are available on request from Durham County Council.
Applications close at midnight on **15 January 2025**. For more information, please contact School Places and Admissions Team on 03000 265896.



NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE

Just a reminder that we have recently launched our brand new website, which you can visit at www.gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk

We will be updating the information regularly to ensure you have access to the latest news and important details about our school. You will find everything you need to know, from our curriculum and school policies to the upcoming events highlighted on our calendar.

We encourage you to explore the website regularly; it's the best way to stay connected with school life. Furthermore, we'll be sharing delightful photos and stories on our social media page, which is conveniently linked on the website.

Please note our academic year calendar is also available on our website:

https://www.gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk/web/school_holidays/

SAFEGUARDING

At Gainford C of E Primary School, we are passionate about and committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and we expect all staff and visitors to share this commitment. Any concerns about children are passed through the members of staff who are trained as Designated Child Protection Leads. In our school, these are myself (Mrs Whitaker) and Miss Smith. We also have two link Safeguarding Academy Councillors - Mr Deakin and Mrs Hawlor.



Mrs Whitaker



Miss Smith



Mr Deakin



Mrs Hawlor

We have robust policies in place to ensure the well-being of our children. These policies underpin our practice and values shared by every single member of staff in our school. Copies are available from the school office or via our website <https://www.gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk/web/safeguarding/> & https://www.gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk/web/school_policies/

Please note that if you are ever worried or concerned about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away.

WATERBOTTLES

Please send your child to school each day with a water bottle containing **water only**. These can be refilled across the day. Water is also provided on the lunch tables for all pupils (school meals and packed lunches).

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

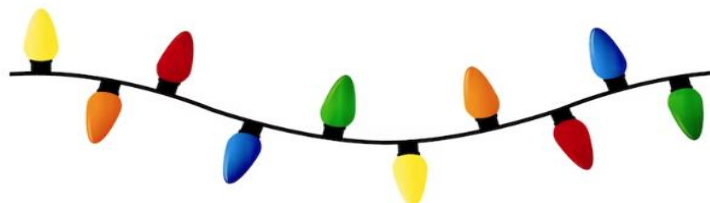
Please can you let the office know if you have recently updated any of your contact details **especially mobile phone numbers and email addresses** as it is essential that we have two contact numbers per child - thank you.

HOUSE POINTS/DOJO POINTS

Well done for all the hard work and effort in school! The Dojo points have been totalled up and These are the results so far

<u>Date</u>	<u>Oak</u>	<u>Sycamore</u>	<u>Willow</u>
14/11/2024	164	153	156
22/11/2024	311	334	344
29/11/2024	260	194	251

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and our warmest wishes for the New Year!



Term Dates 2024-2025

Holiday	Closing date	Date re-opens
Christmas 2024	Friday 20 th December 2024	Tuesday 7 th January 2025
Spring half-term 2025	Friday 21 st February 2025	Monday 3 rd March 2025
Easter 2025	Friday 11 th April 2025	Monday 28 th April 2025
May Day 2025	Friday 2 nd May 2025	Tuesday 6 th May 2025
Summer half-term 2025	Friday 23 rd May 2025	Monday 2 nd June 2025
Summer 2025	Friday 18 th July 2025	TBC

Teacher Training Days 2024-2025

- Monday 6th January 2025



Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs. K. Whitaker & The Gainford Team x

Are you turning 6 soon?
Would you like to...

Build dens? Cook on a fire? Make paper aeroplanes?

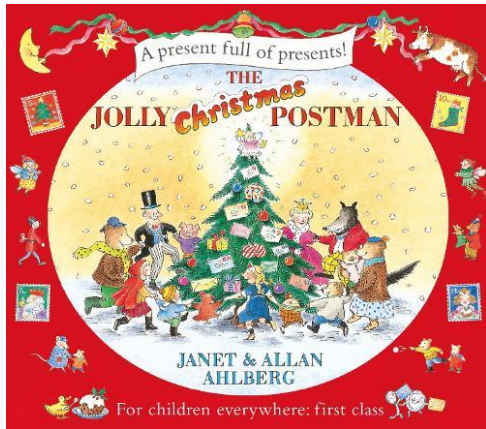
Make new friends? Have fun? Explore nature?

Try new things? Play games?

Then why not try Gainford Beavers?
We meet on Thursdays at 6:30pm in the Scout Hut
Contact Fiona on 07739312113 for more info!

BEAVERS

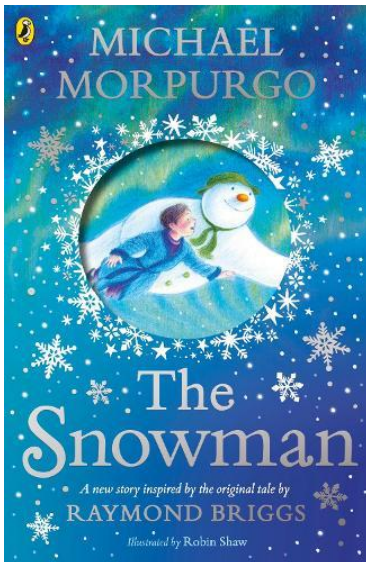
Recommended Reads



The Jolly Christmas Postman - The Jolly Postman (Hardback) **Allan Ahlberg (author), Janet Ahlberg (author)**

It's Christmas Eve and the Jolly Postman is delivering greetings to various fairy-tale characters - there's a card for Baby Bear, a game appropriately called 'Beware' for Red Riding Hood from Mr Wolf, a get-well jigsaw for hospitalised Humpty Dumpty and three more surprise envelopes containing letters, cards, etc.

Everyone's favourite postman keeps on peddling his bicycle up hill and down dale . . . and into everybody's hearts.



The Snowman: Inspired by the original story by Raymond Briggs **(Paperback)**

Beloved children's author Michael Morpurgo has re-imagined Raymond Briggs' classic The Snowman for a new generation of readers.

One December morning, James is thrilled to wake up to see snow falling.

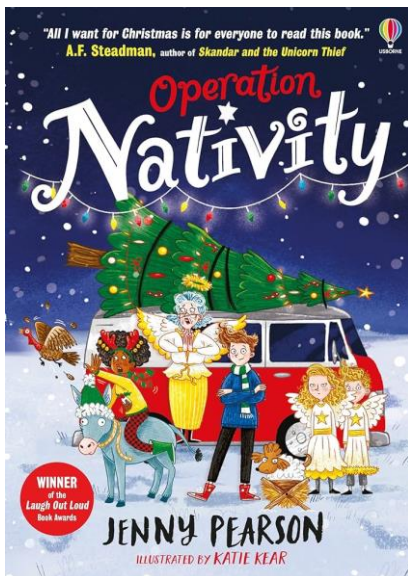
He spends the whole day making his perfect snowman; he has coal eyes, an old green hat and scarf and a tangerine nose... just like the snowman from his favourite story.

That night, something magical happens- the Snowman comes to life!

He and James take to the skies on a magical adventure where they meet someone very special.

Inspired by the timeless tale, Michael Morpurgo and Robin Shaw have created the perfect Christmas story for the whole family.

The Snowman is the perfect festive read for ALL the family!



Operation Nativity by Jenny Pearson, Illustrated by Katie Kear

When Oscar and Molly rush outside to investigate a crash in the night, they're not expecting to find a dazed Angel Gabriel wandering around their grandparents' back garden. And they're certainly not expecting to find themselves in a race to save Christmas.

But if they don't track down a missing shepherd, wise man, donkey and the actual Mary and Joseph, who've all crash-landed in Chipping Bottom, not only will Christmas cease to exist, but they will too. Operation Nativity is on.

Featuring fun festive activities to try with your family!