



GAINFORD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024

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Together we love, learn and flourish

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Tuesday 15th October** – Swale Class Parents Phonic / Reading Workshop @ 3.40pm
- **Wednesday 16th October** – FOGS Annual General Meeting @7pm via Teams
- **Thursday 24th October** – Wear Class (Y3/Y4) Tag Rugby Competition @ Staindrop Academy (am)
- **Thursday 31st October** – Y6 Pupils / Deadline to apply for Secondary School Places
- **Monday 4th November** – Start of Autumn Term 2
- **Tuesday 19th November – Monday 25th November** – Scholastic Book Fair in School
- **Tuesday 19th November** – Wear Class Parents Evening
- **Wednesday 20th November** – Swale, Wear & Tees Parents Evening
- Please note our academic year calendar is also available on our website

<https://gainford.durham.sch.uk/parents/school-holidays/>

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I am absolutely delighted to be your new Headteacher, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for the warm reception I have received since joining. It is clear to me that Gainford is a very special school, and I feel extremely privileged to lead such a dedicated team.

I would like to extend a special welcome to our new pupils, parents, and staff. I hope you will find our school a wonderful place to learn and grow and feel at home within our community.

Please know that as your Headteacher, I am always available to discuss any concerns or answer any questions you may have. I encourage open communication, so do not hesitate to contact me whenever you need.

To keep you informed about school activities, I will be sending out monthly newsletters. I kindly ask you to read them thoroughly, as they will contain important information about events and developments taking place this term.

Thank you once again for your support, and I look forward to a successful term ahead for all of us.

Best Wishes
Mrs Whitaker

HUNDRED FOR HARVEST

This year, we joined together with St Mary's Church to set an ambitious challenge for our community to collect **100 bags of food**, so we could help more people in need. We were delighted (with your support) to have successfully achieved this goal! All the food donated has been sent to the Well Food Bank in West Auckland and the kitchen at the Butterwick Hospice in Stockton. We have been proud supporters of these two charities for many years, and we are thankful that our contributions will help make a difference to the lives of those in need.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

On Friday 4th October, we held our annual Harvest Festival service at St Mary's Church. It was a joyous occasion. The children performed beautifully, sharing songs and heartfelt readings that warmed our hearts and filled us with appreciation. It is moments like these that reinforce the Christian values we strive to instil in our pupils and make us so proud of our wonderful children. WELL DONE EVERYONE!

Thank you!

FRIENDS OF GAINFORD SCHOOL (FOGS)

The Friends of Gainford School group help to raise funds for our school benefitting all pupils in school. They help with the cost of transport for educational visits to try to keep costs down for families. FoGs also support us to purchase resources and equipment for school and help to organise and fund fun events for our pupils.

If you are interested in supporting our school and learning more about FOGS please contact school or drop FOGS an email at gainfordfogs@gmail.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the FOGS will be held this **Wednesday 16th October at 7pm** via Teams. The link has been sent out via Operoo. All are welcome 😊

PE DAYS

- **Swale Class** - Wednesday (Gymnastics) & Friday (Games)
- **Wear Class** - Tuesday (Staindrop Academy Coach - Tag Rugby) & Thursday
- **Tees Class** - Tuesday (Swimming) & Thursday (Kyle Swankie PE Coach - Invasion Games)

PARENTS EVENING – AUTUMN TERM

Advanced notification of date(s)

- **Tuesday 19th November 2024** (Wear Class Only)
- **Wednesday 20th November 2024** (Swale, Wear & Tees Class)
- Further information has been sent via Operoo.



Don't forget
parents
evening!

ATTENDANCE & ABSENCE POLICY 2024-2025

Just a reminder that our **Attendance and Absence Policy 2024-2025** is available on our school website.

<https://gainford.durham.sch.uk/key-information/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>
99%	98%	97%

Current Whole School Attendance is **97%**
Well done Everyone!

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

- Multi-Sports With Kyle for Y1-Y6 Tuesdays 3:30pm - 4:30pm
- Mini Disciples Club with Sarah Fells / Wendy Broderick Wednesdays 3.30pm-4.30pm

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.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES (Y6 Pupils only)

Parents can make their application for Secondary School online by visiting

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2192/Apply-now-for-a-secondary-school-place-deadline-31-October-2024>

The closing date for Secondary School applications is the **31st October 2024**. If parents do not wish to apply online they can complete a paper application form, and these are available on request from the School Admissions Team. A letter from Durham County Council has been sent home previously.

SCHOOL MEALS NEW AUTUMN WINTER MENU COMING SOON

Message below from Chartwells

We are really excited to be presenting you with our NEW Autumn/Winter Menu 2024 which will go live on **Monday 4th November 2024**.

We've introduced some amazing new dishes such as Winter Vegetable Hotpot, Chicken and Sweetcorn Pie, Southern Fried Chicken Wrap and a selection of Paninis. We think children will be as excited about these new dishes as we are.

Menus are available on our school website <https://gainford.durham.sch.uk/parents/school-meals/>

HEADTEACHER GOLD AWARDS

- **Week 1 – Excellent Effort**
Harvey, Angus & Phoebe
- **Week 2 – Outstanding Behaviour**
Harriet, Jacob & Oliver
- **Week 3 – Showing Great Teamwork**
Harrison, Toby & George
- **Week 4 – Being Respectful**
Abigail, Charlotte & Lucy
- **Week 5 – Being Helpful**
Florence B, Bonnie & Georgia



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair will be coming to school on **Tuesday 19th November until Monday 25th November**.

Every time you buy from the Book Fair, you be helping towards free books for our school.

Further information will be sent via Operoo.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

A school council is a formal group of pupils who act as representatives of their classmates in discussing school issues with the headteacher and staff.

New School Council members have been voted in by the pupils in school and are as follows:

Swale Class	Esme B & Esme M Harvey & Harrison
Wear Class	Lachlan & Camilla Toby & Thea
Tees Class	Phoebe & Ada Oliver & Erin

Pupils will meet regularly with their class then with Mrs Gallagher. I know they already have lots of ideas to share! 😊

POLITE REMINDER

No nut products please! We do have a pupil in school with a nut allergy. Please ensure packed lunches are nut free and please do not send your child to school with nuts/nut products for a snack.

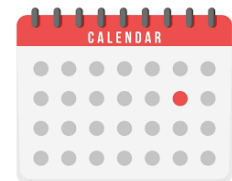
WATERBOTTLES

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).

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>
20/09/2024	150	179	168
27/09/2024	200	199	202
11/10/2024	446	582	583



Term Dates 2024-2025

Holiday	Closing date	Date re-opens
Autumn half-term 2024	Friday 25 th October 2024	Monday 4 th November 2024
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

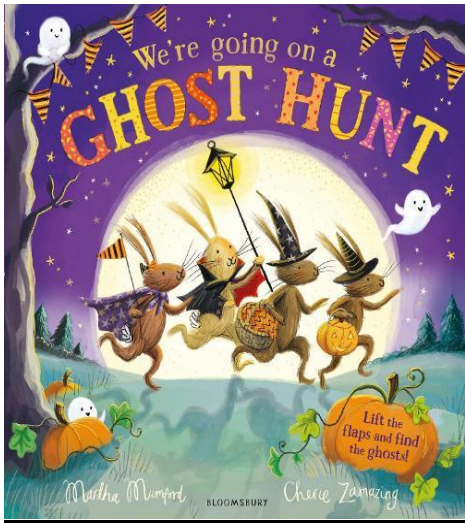
Teacher Training Days 2024-2025

- Monday 6th January 2025

Many thanks for your continued support.
Mrs. K. Whitaker & The Gainford Team x



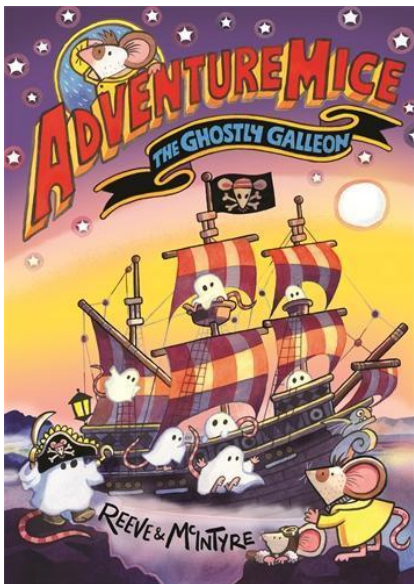
Recommended Reads



We're Going on a Ghost Hunt: A Lift-the-Flap Adventure - The Bunny Adventures by Martha Mumford (author), Cherie Zamazing (illustrator)

We're going to a ghost hunt! Come and join the fun! Get ready to celebrate Halloween as four bunnies set off on a spooky lift-the-flap adventure to find five little ghosts hidden under the flaps. There are all sorts of exciting things to see along the way, from screechy bats and black cats to white owls and pumpkins!

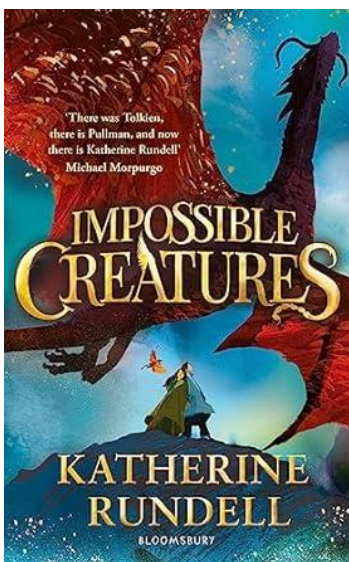
Can you help the bunnies with their trick-or-treating and get them back home in time for bed?



Adventuremice: The Ghostly Galleon by Philip Reeve (author), Sarah McIntyre (author)

The fifth rollicking instalment of Reeve and Macintyre's series for younger readers finds Pedro, Skipper, Fledermaus and the rest of the gang embroiled in some spooky shenanigans as they search for Captain Cheesebeard's ancient treasure horde.

The spookiest time of the year calls for a treasure hunt! So when the Adventuremice hear about ghostly goings-on at sea, they try to get to the bottom of the mystery of old Captain Cheesebeard and his ancient treasure hoard!



Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell (author)

Christopher is stunned when he discovers a passage to the Archipelago: a cluster of magical islands where all the creatures of myth still live and breed and thrive in their thousands. There he meets Mal: a girl from the islands, who is in possession of a flying coat and a baby griffin, and who is being pursued by a killer. Together they embark on an urgent quest to discover why the creatures are suddenly perishing, voyaging across the wild splendour of the Archipelago, where sphinxes hold secrets and centaurs do murder, in a bid to save both the islands and the world beyond them from a rising evil - before it's too late.