



# GAINFORD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

MARCH / APRIL 2025

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Website: [www.gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk](http://www.gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk)

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## Together we love, learn & flourish

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March** – British Science Week
- **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March** – Red Nose Day
- **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March** – Mother's Day Lunch
- **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March** - Pre-school & Key Stage 1 Locomotive Trip
- **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** - Y5/Y6 Multi-skills Festival @ Staindrop Academy
- **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** - Y3/Y4 Orienteering @ Staindrop Academy
- **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April** – Wear Class Parents' Evening
- **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April** – Swale / Wear & Tees Class Parents' Evening
- **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April** - Y1/Y2 Football Competition @ Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre
- **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April** - Reception Multi-skills Festival @ Staindrop Academy
- **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April** – Easter Service & Decorated Egg Competition / Last Day of Term

### REMINDER NEW PARENT APP – E SCHOOLS



Just a reminder that we have replaced Operoo with the eSchools Parent App. The app will be the only place we communicate with you, **so we please urge you to download and register at your earliest convenience.**

**IF NOT DOWNLOADED, YOU WILL NO LONGER RECEIVE EMAILS OR NOTIFICATIONS FROM THE SCHOOL.**

Your child will have brought home a letter regarding the change, where/how to download the app and your logins. If you have any problems or need assistance, please pop into see school office or call us **01325 730274.**

We hope the app will be more user-friendly and allow a smoother communication between school and parents. In addition to parent communication, the eSchool's Parent App also pulls through all calendar information to your app for events in school and will send reminders as notifications if they are relevant to your child/children. Your child's attendance is also visible through the app.

All parent's information is kept confidential on the app. Sibling accounts are linked automatically on sign-up. If there are any queries, please get in touch.

### NEW UNIFORM SUPPLIER

We're excited to announce that all our Gainford C of E Primary School uniform stock is now available to shop online through **Tots to Teams!** Tots to Teams have been established for over 25 years with Primary schools being their specialist customer group, they offer an online ordering service as well as having a dedicated uniform and teamwear supply shop on the outskirts of Newcastle.

Please be aware that the logos will be embroidered onto the garments, as the pictures currently displayed on the website are without them – but don't worry, they'll be updated soon to give you a better idea of the final look.

The website is user friendly and makes the ordering process simple, please visit the site at <http://totstoteams.com/schools/gainford-c-of-e-school/>.

For your convenience, Tots to Teams offers a collection point just off the A1 near Newcastle airport, or you can opt for delivery straight to your school or home address using EVRI.

## WORLD BOOK DAY

Pupils and staff had great fun dressing up and celebrating World Book Day. Thank you for all your efforts. The children looked superb! More photos can be found on our Facebook page.



### GO RED FOR RED NOSE DAY – FRIDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH

Pupils are invited to **wear red for the day**. We will be opening a donation page via Parent Pay and we would ask for a voluntary minimum donation of £1. **Please do not send any cash in and make payment via Parent Pay – thank you.**  
<https://www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday>



### PARENTS' EVENING

Our Spring Parents' Evening booking is now open. This year we have an integration feature to book via our eSchools app. You can find it by opening the app, clicking on the house icon along the bottom navigation bar, then clicking the Parents' Evening tab. There it will allow you to book for your child and if you have siblings in wear class and another class, it should offer two options. Wear Class have slots available across 2 dates with having a larger class size:

**Tuesday 8th April 1:15pm - 5:00pm**  
**Wednesday 9th April 3:35pm - 6:00pm.**

Swale and Tees Class slots are open on  
**Wednesday 9th April 3:35pm – 6.00pm.**

Please book accordingly to your child's class. If you have any issues, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

### MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH

Our children are inviting mothers into school on **Wednesday 26th March** for a Mother's Day Lunch.

Grandmothers, Aunties, Sisters or Carers are all welcome in place of Mothers. Please don't feel pressured to attend, we understand a lot of our parents and extended family will be working.

There is a £3.37 fee (the cost of an adult's school lunch) payable via ParentPay. Please pay by **Friday 14th March** to guarantee a booking. We need to know in advance so that our chef can order stock in ample time.



### PARENT QUESTIONNAIRES

A huge thank you to all the parents who have completed the questionnaire we sent out earlier. Your feedback is invaluable and will greatly assist us in our ongoing efforts to improve.

Remember, the questionnaire is anonymous, providing a safe space for you to share your thoughts on how your child is progressing at our school. If there's anything you're not happy with or if you've got concerns that you feel haven't been resolved, please feel free to make an appointment to come and chat with me directly.

Just a quick reminder: we'll be collating responses on **Friday 14th March**, when the questionnaire will close.

**Thanks again for your support!**

### EASTER SERVICE – FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL @ 9.15am

Our Easter Service will be held in St Mary's Church on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 9.15am**. All are welcome!

### DECORATED EGG COMPETITION

#### FRIDAY 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL

Pupils are invited to take part in a decorated egg competition. There will be prizes for each class and we will also have an adult section - if parents/carers are feeling creative! All entries are to be in school on the morning of **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April**.

We can't wait to see your creations!



### SPORTING EVENTS

<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April (9.30am-11.30am)</b>	Y5/Y6 Multi-skills Festival @ Staindrop Academy
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April (9.30am-11.30am)</b>	Year 3 / 4 Orienteering @ Staindrop Academy
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April (9.30am -11.30am)</b>	Y1/Y2 Football Competition @ Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April (9.30am -11.30am)</b>	Reception Multi-skills Festival @ Staindrop Academy

Just a gentle reminder that all children need to have the **correct school PE kit** – a white t-shirt, navy shorts or navy jogging bottoms, a hoody, trainers and a water bottle, please. If your child wears earrings and they are unable to take them out, then you will also need to provide plasters – thank you.





### PARENT & TODDLER GROUP

Just a reminder that we host a Parent & Toddler Group to school. Sessions are on every **Friday 9:30am – 11:00am**. Entry is £3 per family to cover the food & staff supply. Tea & Coffee is provided as well as snacks.



### INDOOR SHOES

A huge thank you to all of you for purchasing plimsolls for your children's indoor shoes. Your efforts are making a significant difference in minimising the amount of mud tracked through our classrooms and corridors, helping us keep our school clean and tidy. If you're facing any issues with buying the plimsolls, please let us know— we're here to help! We truly appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a lovely, tidy environment for everyone.

### ROBINWOOD ACTIVITY CENTRE

A gentle reminder to those going to Robinwood, that the monthly instalments are on ParentPay.

Please contact the office directly for any issues relating to Robinwood on 01325 730274.

<https://www.robinwood.co.uk/activity-centres/barhaugh-hall/>



### PARKING

This is just a friendly reminder to please take care when dropping off and collecting pupils at school. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that residents' drives and gateways are not blocked under any circumstances. While we understand that the roads around our school are public highways, we would really appreciate it if you were mindful when parking and show respect for our residents.

Also, we encourage you to turn off engines when stationary, as vehicle exhaust emissions contribute to air pollution, affecting our children and community. If you need a place to park, the area around the village green is a great option.

Thank you for your understanding and support!



### 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>
<b>96%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>97%</b>

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



### HEADTEACHER GOLD AWARDS FOR SUPER WORK IN ....

**Week 18 – Music**

*Abigail, Pippa & Elizabeth*

**Week 19– History**

*Franco, Jessica & George*

**Week 20 – Art & Design**

*Harriet, Kyle & Phoebe*

**Keep Up the Good Work!**



## **JOINING FRIENDS OF GAINFORD SCHOOL (FOGS)**

We just wanted to take a moment to highlight the invaluable contributions of the Friends of Gainford School (FOGS). Without their dedication, time and efforts, we would be limited in what we can offer our children. Thanks to FOGS, our school gets to enjoy fantastic events like discos, educational trips with funded coaches, vibrant colour runs, and community gatherings like the Annual Car Boot Sale. Furthermore, we raise money for things like the Accelerated Reading programme and the development of a new school library.

We meet virtually once a term, and new members are always welcome.

Whether you can spare a little time or a lot, your input is valued and makes a real difference.

If you're interested in becoming a Friend of Gainford School, please email at [gainfordfogs@gmail.com](mailto:gainfordfogs@gmail.com)

We can't wait to hear from you!

### **FOGS SPRING / SUMMER FUNDRAISERS**

- **Spring Disco** – Date TBC. Info to be sent via E-schools app.
- **Car Boot Sale** - Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025
- **Children's Games Night** – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025
- **Colour Run** – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025



### **MESSAGE FROM FOGS**

FOGS would like to thank Santa and his Elves for their fantastic Santa's Sleigh fundraising efforts on Christmas Eve. Thank you to everyone who helped and donated in the Elf Buckets, the £350.00 has gone towards a new Reading Programme to help every child in the school.

## **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 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/](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.**

## EARLY REMINDER STANDARDISED TESTS

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/primary-assessments-future-dates>

If you have a child in either **Year 1 / Year 2 / Year 4 or Year 6** please click on the following links below for further information:

- [Key Stage 1 SATS Parents Guide](#)
- [Key Stage 2 SATS Parents Guide](#)
- [Year 4 Multiplication Check Information for Parents Guide](#)
- [Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Parents Guide](#)



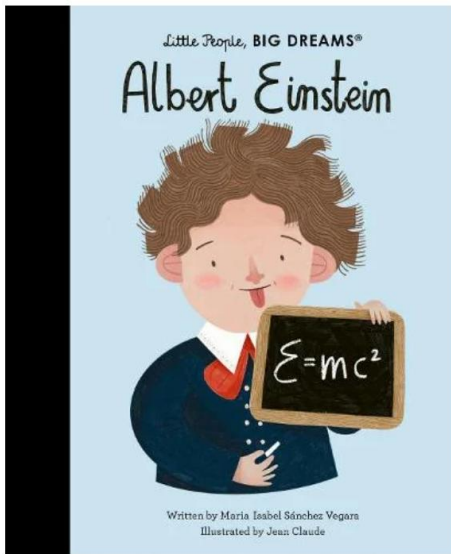
### KEY DATES

STANDARDISED TEST	WEEK COMMENCING
Year 6 SATs	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 – Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2025.
Year 2 SATs (optional)	It is recommended that the optional key stage 1 tests are administered during May 2025.
Year 4 Multiplication Check	Schools must administer the multiplication tables check within the 2-week period from Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025.
Year 1 Phonic Screening Check	Schools must administer the phonics screening check within the 1-week period from Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2025.

### TERM DATES 2024-2025

Holiday	Closing date	Date re-opens
Easter 2025	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
May Day 2025	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2025	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Summer half-term 2025	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025
Summer 2025	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025

## RECOMMENDED READS

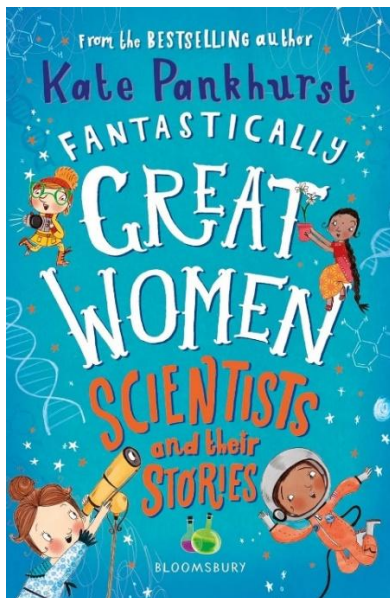


### **LITTLE PEOPLE BIG DREAMS – ALBERT EINSTEIN**

In this book from the critically acclaimed, multimillion-copy bestselling Little People, BIG DREAMS series, discover the life of Albert Einstein, the legendary scientist.

Little Albert grew up in Germany, where it took him four years to formulate his first word. He was fascinated by how objects worked and, although he didn't love school, he loved physics and maths books. His brilliant mind contemplated space and time, and he eventually came up with the theory of relativity.

He shared his knowledge with the rest of the world, becoming the most original mind of the twentieth century. This inspiring book features stylish and quirky illustrations and extra facts at the back, including a biographical timeline with historical photos and a detailed profile of the theoretical physicist's life.



### **FANTASTICALLY GREAT WOMEN SCIENTISTS AND THEIR STORIES BY KATE PANKHURST**

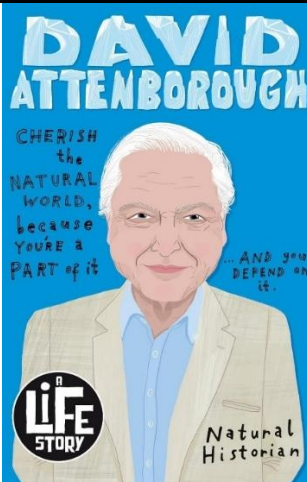
Prepare to be inspired with this fantastically great new series for young readers from bestselling author Kate Pankhurst, descendent of suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst. In this first book, read the true stories of amazing scientists and discover things that are out of this world!

Women have been responsible for many of the world's most groundbreaking scientific discoveries. These are the stories of incredible female scientists whose hard work and persistence changed our understanding of science, and transformed people's ideas of what women can do.

Reach for the stars with the first African-American woman to go into space Mae Jemison· Explore volcanoes with the fearless Katia Krafft· Invent a treatment for malaria with the determined Tu Youyou· Make scientific discoveries that will change the world with Marie Curie

Including comic strips, family trees, maps and more, Fantastically Great Women Scientists and Their Stories is a celebration of women who made some of the world's most important scientific breakthroughs. A fantastic gift for girls and boys alike!

List of women featured: Mae Jemison, Marie Curie, Elizabeth Blackwell, Janaki Ammal, Caroline Herschel, Katia Krafft, Tu Youyou and Rosalind Franklin.



### **SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH - A LIFE STORY (PAPERBACK)**

**LIZZIE HUXLEY-JONES (AUTHOR), SARAH PAPWORTH (ILLUSTRATOR)**

David Attenborough: explorer, broadcaster, natural historian. Explore the beauty of the world we inhabit with national treasure, David Attenborough.

A Life Story: This gripping series throws the reader directly into the lives of modern society's most influential figures. With striking black-and-white illustration along with timelines and never-heard-before facts.