



GAINFORD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025

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Together we love, learn & flourish

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Monday 3rd - Sunday 9th February** – Children's Mental Health Week
- **Monday 10th February** – Y5/Y6 Round 2 – Small Schools Football League
12:45pm Kick-Off.
- **Tuesday 11th February** – Safer Internet Day
- **Tuesday 18th February** – Y5/6 Netball Tournament @ Newton Aycliffe
Leisure Centre (am)
- **Thursday 20th February** – Y1/2 Multi-skills Festival @ Staindrop Academy
- **Friday 21st February** – Last day of Spring Half Term 1
- **Monday 3rd March** – Return to school for Spring Half Term 2
- **Thursday 6th March** – World Book Day



PARENT & TODDLER GROUP

We are pleased to welcome back the 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/>



FREE AFTER SCHOOL FUN SPORTS

We have been able to recently subsidise the Swankie Sports club using our Sports Premium funding.

Swankie Sports is in school **every Tuesday 3:30 – 4:30pm** hosting a variety of inclusive and entertaining sports, such as dodgeball, gymnastics, football, dance and many more. If you'd like your child to attend, please email interest to admin@gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk
Spaces are on a first come first served basis!



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

This week in school we have been celebrating Children's Mental Health Week (3rd - 9th February)

This year's theme is *Know Yourself, Grow Yourself*.

What does Know Yourself, Grow Yourself mean for pupils?

As children grow up, they face new challenges, responsibilities and opportunities to discover who they are. The theme '**Know Yourself Grow Yourself**' encourages self-awareness and personal growth, two essential building blocks for mental health and well-being.

Why self-awareness matters

Self-awareness is the ability to recognise and understand your emotions, strengths, weaknesses and values. For children, this skill is crucial as they navigate friendships, academic pressures and personal identity.

When children are self-aware, they can:

- **Manage their emotions** – recognise why they are feeling stressed, anxious or overwhelmed and take steps to cope.
- **Make better decisions** – understand their values and priorities, which helps them avoid peer pressure.
- **Build stronger relationships** – communicate more effectively and empathise with others.

How personal growth builds resilience and confidence

Personal growth happens when young people challenge themselves to learn, improve and step out of their comfort zones: it's about progress, not perfection.

Through personal growth, young people can:

- **Develop resilience** – learn to bounce back from setbacks and see failure as a stepping stone to success.
- **Build confidence** - gain a sense of achievement by setting and reaching goals.
- **Adopt a growth mindset** – believe that abilities and intelligence can improve with effort and persistence.

Parents can find loads of useful advice by clicking on the link– <https://here4you.co.uk/for-parents/>



SAFER INTERNET DAY

What is Safer Internet Day?

Safer Internet Day 2025 will take place on **Tuesday 11th February 2025**, with celebrations and learning based around the theme ***Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.***

Safer Internet Day is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety.

This year Safer Internet Day will be focusing on online scamming this includes covering:

- A message or an email with a suspicious looking link.
- Something that seems too good to be true, like you've won a prize
- Another player in a game agreeing to trade but then taking something and not giving anything in return.
- A video, app, advert or website that says it can show you how to get free money in your favourite game
- Looking for signs that something might be a scam. Does it seem too good to be true?
- Keeping your personal information, like your name, school, email, phone or bank details safe and private.
- Don't click on links, pop-ups or messages if you don't know who they're from or what they are for.
- Talking to a trusted adult.
- Blocking and reporting scammers.

During our Votes for School lessons, pupils will consider the ***"Is it easy to know who to trust online?"***

Please see the links below for further information

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Some other resources which you may find helpful in supporting your child online are:

- <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>
- <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>



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/

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.

PE KITS

Please can you ensure that your child brings their correct PE kit in weekly, or they can leave it in school Monday to Friday or for the half term – thank you.



SMALL SCHOOLS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

On **Monday 10th February** Y5/Y6 pupils will be taking part in round 2 of the Small Schools Football League. This will be held on Gainford community sports field. Kick off will be at **12.45pm**. Parents are welcome to attend the event to spectate if you would like to do so.



TEES CLASS SPORTING EVENT

Pupils from Tees Class will be participating in a Y5/Y6 Netball Competition at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on **Tuesday 18th February (9.00am-11.30am)**. Our staff will accompany the pupils and parents do not need to attend. This is for your information only.

The bus will leave promptly at 9.00am.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT PUPILS COME TO SCHOOL IN THEIR SCHOOL PE KITS, HAVE A WATER BOTTLE, AND WEAR A WARM COAT.

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

YEAR 1 & 2 MULTI-SKILLS

Year 1 & 2 pupils will be taking part in a multi-skills festival at Staindrop Academy on Thursday 20th February (9.30am-11.30am).

Our staff will accompany the pupils and parents do not need to attend. This is for your information only.



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

We can't wait to hear from you!

FOGS SPRING / SUMMER FUNDRAISERS

- **Spring Disco** – *Date TBC*
- **Car Boot Sale** - Saturday 17th May 2025
- **Children's Games Night** – Thursday 26th June 2025
- **Colour Run** – Thursday 17th July 2025

We Need Your Help



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>
96%	98%	98%

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



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.

NEW PARENT APP – E SCHOOLS

We are delighted to inform you that we are replacing 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. Please make sure you check your child's bag.

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. As well as parent communication, the eSchool's Parent App also pulls through all calendar information to your app of events in school and will send reminders as notifications if it's 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.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Just a polite reminder that our after-school club now **closes early (4.30pm) every Friday.**



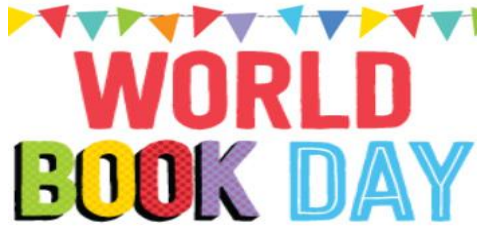
WATERBOTTLES

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).



WORLD BOOK DAY

We will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 6th March**. We will be hosting a range of fun activities in each class and pupils have asked if they can **dress up as characters from their favourite book**.



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.



HEADTEACHER GOLD AWARDS

Week 12 – Showing Initiative

Lennie, Thea & Ryan

Week 13– Phonics / Reading

Finn, Harry & Dexter

Week 14 – RE

Esme M, Sam & Bethany

Week 15 – PE

Esme M, Harry & Lucy

Week 16– Science

Florrie B, Bonnie & Oliver

Week 17 – Computing

Esme B, Preston & Dexter

Keep Up the Good Work!



LAST DAY OF TERM

The last day of term is **Friday 21st February**. Pupils return to school on **Monday 3rd March**.



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. Please check any birthday cakes to ensure that they do not contain nuts too - many thanks!



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>
06/12/2024	227	240	220
12/12/2024	282	248	349
17/01/2025	1384	1456	1527
24/01/2025	334	337	227
31/01/2025	438	444	332
07/02/2025	119	104	64

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](#)



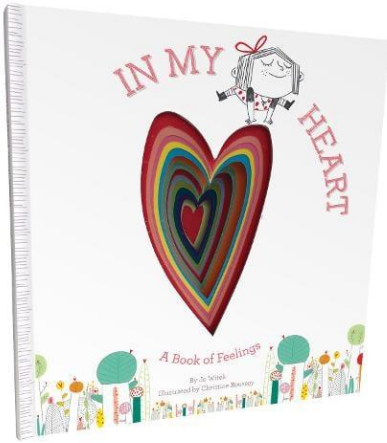
KEY DATES

<u>STANDARDISED TEST</u>	<u>WEEK COMMENCING</u>
Year 6 SATs	Monday 12th May 2025 – Thursday 15th 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 2nd June 2025.
Year 1 Phonic Screening Check	Schools must administer the phonics screening check within the 1-week period from Monday 9th June 2025.

TERM DATES 2024-2025

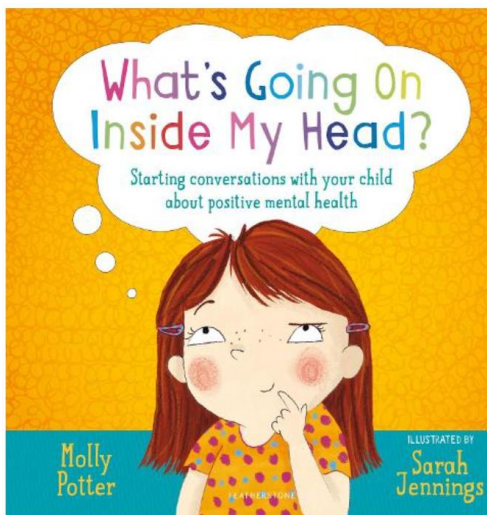
Holiday	Closing date	Date re-opens
Spring half-term 2025	Friday 21st February 2025	Monday 3rd March 2025
Easter 2025	Friday 11 th April 2025	Monday 28 th April 2025
May Day 2025	Friday 2 nd May 2025	Tuesday 6 th May 2025
Summer half-term 2025	Friday 23 rd May 2025	Monday 2 nd June 2025
Summer 2025	Friday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

Recommended Reads



IN MY HEART: A BOOK OF FEELINGS BY JO WITEK (AUTHOR), CHRISTINE ROUSSEY (ILLUSTRATOR)

In My Heart explores emotions--happiness, sadness, bravery, anger, shyness and more. Unlike other feelings books that tend to oversimplify, In My Heart lyrically explains what an emotion feels like, physically, inside. For example: "When I get really angry, my heart feels like it's going to explode! Don't come near me! My heart is yelling, hot and loud. This is when my heart is mad." On the cover and the right side of each spread, a die-cut heart decreases in size, creating a multi-coloured heart the depth of the entire book.

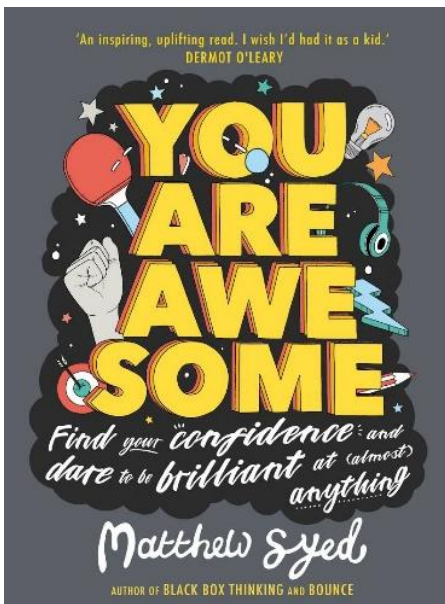


WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE MY HEAD? BY MOLLY POTTER (AUTHOR) & SARAH JENNINGS (ILLUSTRATOR)

We all know that healthy minds are really important but how do we make sure we look after our mental health from a very young age? What's Going On Inside My Head? is a book for children that explores practical ways we can keep our minds in good shape as well as our bodies.

By talking about positive self-image, emotional intelligence, relationships and mindfulness, this book will help children develop healthy habits and good coping strategies from the start. Presented in a warm, child-friendly but no-nonsense way it will help establish solid foundations for every child's current and future wellbeing.

Perfect for starting conversations with children about their mental and emotional health, What's Going On Inside My Head? is a must for every parent who understands the importance of keeping a healthy mind.



YOU ARE AWESOME BY MATTHEW SYED

I'm no good at sport ... I can't do maths ... I really struggle with exams ... Sound familiar?

If you believe you can't do something, the chances are you won't try. But what if you really could get better at maths, or sport or exams? In fact, what if you could excel at anything you put your mind to?

You Are Awesome can help you do just that, inspiring and empowering young readers to find the confidence to realise their potential.

The first children's book from Times journalist, two-time Olympian and best-selling author of Bounce, Black Box Thinking and The Greatest, Matthew Syed, it uses examples of successful people from Mozart to Serena Williams to demonstrate that success really is earned rather than given, and that talent can be acquired.

With hard work and determination, practice and self-belief, and, most importantly, a Growth Mindset, there's no reason why anyone can't achieve anything. Practical, insightful and positive, this is the book to help children build resilience, embrace their mistakes and grow into successful, happy adults.