



## Newsletter

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

It may still be November, but the plans for Christmas at Galley Hill have been in full swing this week. See below for details about all the exciting plans for December.

### Christmas Stars 2018

This Christmas, we would like to take the opportunity to reward some of our children for going above and beyond this academic year. The adults have secretly selected three children from each class to be Galley Hill's Christmas Stars for 2018. The names of these children will go into 24 mini bags and be put on our school Christmas tree. One name will be revealed from each bag every day in December and the children will receive a gift from under the tree to say well done for all their efforts. Children have been nominated for a range of reasons, from excellent listening to displaying resilience and determination.

### Bottle Battle

This year, for the Christmas Fair, each class will compete in the 'Galley Hill Bottle Battle'. We kindly ask that families donate bottles for a stall at the fair- any bottles will be gratefully received. This could include bottles of alcohol, bubble bath, shower gel, moisturiser, juice or fizzy drinks. The bottles will be used for a tombola where every ticket is a winner! The class that donates the most bottles wins the battle and will be rewarded with a special treat the following week...

Please send in donations of bottles from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Glass bottles and alcohol should be brought straight to the school office.

### The Christmas Enterprise Challenge

This year, each class will have a stall at the Christmas Fair and have been given £50 to buy or make items that they can sell. Any profits will be given back to the classes for them to spend as they wish. The money could be used, for example, to buy new reading books, to create a class reading area or to purchase new resources. This challenge will link beautifully with many areas of the curriculum and provide an exciting context for our children's learning. A newsletter written by the children to advertise their stalls will be coming soon!

### FOGH Christmas Teddy Stall

Do you own a teddy, no longer loved, hidden at the back of a cupboard? Then FOGH would love that teddy for their teddy stall. Sorry we can't take teddies with batteries or any gimmicks. Just clean, child friendly teddies that can be re-loved. Please can you send them into the school office over the next couple of weeks, before the fair on 11th December?

Thank you in advance  
FOGH

### Next FOGH Meeting

Are you interested in joining the FOGH team to help raise funds for school? Would you be interested in taking on one of our roles (Chair, Treasurer or Secretary) so that FOGH can continue? Or would you like to become a member?

We will be holding two meetings to explain the roles and a little bit about the charity and to see who is interested in carrying on the success of FOGH. The first meeting will be held at school on **Thursday 6th December at 8pm**. We will organise a further meeting early in January in case anyone is unable to attend the December meeting (date to follow).

We look forward to seeing you there!  
FOGH

### Twitter and Facebook

Since September, we have had numerous comments from parents regarding the school's lack of presence on social media. We are currently reviewing our Social Media Policy in preparation for the re-launch of the Galley Hill Twitter page and the launch of a whole-school Facebook page. Nursery and Year 6 parents currently have Facebook pages; however, it will be far easier for the school to have only one Facebook account so it is more manageable.

In the past, the school's social media pages have been 'closed'. The new accounts will be 'open' which means people don't have to be a member of the page to see the school's posts. This will allow all members of the school community to receive updates and celebrate the school's achievements. Because of this change and the changes brought to data protection in May, we have sent home a new paper copy of the school's consent form for photographs. Please complete this form and send it into school as soon as possible. If you request for your child's photograph not to be used on Twitter or Facebook, we will ensure we adhere to this request. However, please rest assured that whenever we post a photograph of a child, personal information will not be included alongside it. If you have any concerns or queries regarding consent for photographs, please contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team (Mrs Crinion, Mrs Meadows or Mrs Westgarth).

### Parent Mail

We have had an overwhelming response to Parent Mail since the registration requests were sent out last week. 87% of families now have a Parent Mail account and 59% of families have downloaded the Parent Mail app. We are thrilled that the system has been so well supported by our community and appreciate your patience whilst we implement all the services Parent Mail provides. If you require any assistance with Parent Mail, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help.

As previously mentioned, if you would prefer not to use Parent Mail, the school will continue to send paper letters. Mrs Meadows has now compiled a list of families who have not signed up to Parent Mail and will send out letters to the eldest child for these families.

### Reminder: Individual and Family Photographs

A letter regarding individual and family photographs on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November was sent out on Tuesday. If you would like a family group photograph, the slip at the bottom of the letter should have been returned by today. All children will have their individual photographs taken as a matter of course.



### Reminder: Christmas Dinners

This year, Christmas Dinner Day will be Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. If your child is currently on packed lunch but would like a Christmas dinner on this day, please fill in a slip from the office and return it (with £2.10 to cover the cost of the meal) no later than **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November**. This will allow the ladies in the kitchen time to order the correct quantities of ingredients and food for the day.

### Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

The shoe boxes have now been collected by the 'Children in Distress' charity. Thank you so much to everyone who was able to donate a box for this worthy cause. We received over 50 boxes which far exceeds last year's total.

### Children in Need

Thank you for all the donations made last Friday to 'Children in Need'. We raised £241.10 which has been sent to the charity to help it continue its important work. A lot of thought had clearly gone into the children's outfits and the day provided a lovely opportunity to discuss with children what their 'thing' is.

### Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Anti-bullying Ambassadors in Years 3 to 6 have now been selected. We are planning training for these children in conjunction with 'The Diana Award' and they will be instrumental in developing our approach and ethos around bullying early next year.

Hope you have all had a good week. If you need anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to assist.

Mrs Crinion, Mrs Meadows & Mrs Westgarth  
Acting Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher & Acting Deputy Headteacher

