



The Galley Hill Times

Friday, 6th January 2023

Dates for the diary...

Thursday	12 th January	3.15pm	Open Classrooms
Monday	16 th January	9am	Y6 Topaz Sharing Assembly
Tuesday	17 th January	9am	Y2 Diamond Sharing Assembly
Thursday	19 th January	All Day	Y4 Trip St Albans Abbey

Message from Mrs Birch

Happy New Year and welcome back to you all. I would like to wish everybody in our Galley Hill community health and happiness for 2023 and hope that you all had a lovely Christmas break.

It is a pleasure to see the children all back in school today, eager for the new term and we look forward to sharing lots of learning experiences together.

Attendance

Although we fully appreciate that children do get poorly (and it seems to be rife at the moment!), we want to remind all parents that good attendance in school is absolutely essential to them making good progress. We would expect a child's attendance to be at least 95% and become concerned if it falls below 90%. You can look at your child's attendance on the Arbor app to know their current attendance percentage.

If your child is absent from school due to sickness, please email or leave an answerphone message as soon as possible, ideally before the start of the school day.

We want to take this opportunity to remind you that term time holiday will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances and the government state that affordability is not considered to be exceptional.

Family Support Worker

At Galley Hill, we have the pleasure of working with our Family Support Worker, Mary Nyariki, who many of you will know. She works tirelessly to support families within our community and this included supporting many with Christmas goodies that she had worked with local charities and groups to put together. We are so incredibly grateful for the work she does.

Another aspect of Mary's work is to run a coffee morning, which is open for any parents at Galley Hill, every other Friday morning from 9am to 10:30am. During this time, there is an opportunity to discuss and share support on the trials and tribulations of all aspects of parenting. In addition, we then have our computer suite open from 10:30am to 11:30am on these dates for any parents who need to use our internet for 'life admin' or do a little printing.

The first coffee morning of 2023 will take place on Friday 13th January.

Galley Hill Food Bank

We want to thank everybody who continues to contribute to the food bank that we have in school. If ever you have contributions to make, please bring them to the school office.

This is a resource for our school community. We do not want any of our families to go hungry. We know things are really difficult at the moment. If you are running short of food, please speak to a member of staff you feel comfortable with and we will do what we can to help. Any request will of course be treated with discretion.

Staff News

As we are sure many of you will have noticed, we are delighted to share with you that Mrs Pritchett is expecting her first child later in the school year. We are sure you will all want to join us in congratulating her.

FROGS

Many thanks to our FROGS (Parent and Teacher Association) volunteers who worked so hard to put on the Christmas Disco for our children and who supported the Rotary in the Santa Sleigh around Gadebridge. We really do appreciate the work that you are doing.

Sharing Assemblies

Many thanks to the children from Amethyst, who shared their learning just before Christmas.

Our next sharing assemblies are on Monday 16th January for 6 Topaz and Tuesday 17th January for 2 Diamond, both at 9am. Parents and carers of children in these classes are invited to come and hear about their child's learning and then have the opportunity go back to the classroom to look at their books and displays.

Value of the Month

Our value for the month of January is perseverance. We will be talking about this value in assemblies and lesson time and would appreciate if you could also talk with your child at home about what it means to persevere. This is a particularly important value for us as it is also part of our Galley Hill Vision Statement.



Celebrate

Well done to *Loui W* in 3 Ruby who recently competed in his first Diving competition and finished in 4th place. Great work Loui, keep it up!

If your child has anything from outside of school that you would like to share then please email the details over to admin@galleyhill.herts.sch.uk and we can include them on the next Newsletter.



Notice Board

OPEN CLASSROOMS

The first open classrooms of 2023 will take place next Thursday, 12th January from 3.15pm (3.30pm for Nursery). This is your chance to come in to the class to see your child's learning. These take place once per month and are a great opportunity to be more aware of what your child is currently learning.

HEMEL STORM HOME GAME THIS SUNDAY



Hemel Storm are back in action this Sunday with a Semi Final match in the National Cup against Milton Keynes Breakers. Tip-off is at 5pm at Hemel Sports Centre. Tickets are available on the door or you can buy in advance at www.hemelstorm.net