



The Gattons Infant School Newsletter

As we reach the end of our first half term I know we have lots of exhausted children and grown ups! We have had a great start to the year with trips to Hever Castle in Year 2 and the local area for Year 1. The Reception children have been amazing and it is lovely to see them so settled into the routines of school. Please make sure your children get lots of sleep and plenty of down time next week, so they are refreshed and ready for the second half of term, which is always a busy one!

Next half term continues to be jam packed with events and fun. We have our Winter Fayre, Reception Nativity and concert at The King's Church for KS1, for us all to enjoy. Please look out for notices from FOGS with key dates for your diaries., including non uniform days and raffle tickets to buy and sell.

Thank you for all your support this term - have a lovely half term.

Sarah Gospel
Headteacher

Please find the links for our outdoor play and Amazon wish lists if you would like to donate any resources to school. Thank you to those who have donated this term - it makes a huge difference!

Outdoor play

<https://amzn.eu/7rcPQwB>

Main list <https://amzn.eu/1XkJkLG>

Thank you!

Autumn Term 2026
22nd October

Dates to remember

Friday 23rd - INSET
Day - school closed
for children

Monday 26th -
Friday 30th - Half
Term Holiday

Wednesday 4th
November - Non
uniform FOGS
Donations

Saturday 21st
November - FOGS
Christmas Fayre

Outdoor Play

Thank you to everyone who came to outdoor play on Thursday. We hope you enjoyed it! Please remember to send your child to school with a good waterproof - we do go out when it's drizzling!



More Outdoor Play Photos!



Poppy Appeal

Each year we support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. From Monday 2nd November, Year 2 children will be visiting classrooms to sell poppies. If your child would like to purchase a poppy, can you please send a silver coin donation into school in a named envelope in your child's book bag. Thank you.



Flu Immunisation

Please remember to complete the online form that was sent to you last week. You must complete a form even if you do not want your child to have the immunisation. All forms must be returned by Wednesday 6th November. Thank you.



Junior School Transfer

Online applications for Junior Transfer are now open for children in Year 2. Please ensure that you have completed a junior transfer application before the closing date of Friday 15th January. All late applications are dealt with after on time applications and this can result in you not getting the school place of your choice. Southway Junior School will be holding their open morning for parents on Wednesday 18th November. There is no need to book. Please note this event is for parents only.



What is happening in school!

After all the notices and reminders, the children have been busy too!

Year 2 had a fabulous time at Hever castle and during their school castle day last week on Monday and Tuesday.

At Hever we took part in a castle tour, scavenger hunt and explored the adventure playground. The children were excellent role models and represented The Gattons so well. We particularly loved the castle tour guides fascinating facts and going into rooms set up for medieval times.

At school, we made up our own castle recipes, took part in Castle themed maths problems and took part in a special castle junk modelling challenge! What a great two days we had.



Year 1 have had a busy end to the half term with the discovery of Bog Baby! We were all very excited to follow a map around the school grounds to eventually find him hidden in the classroom. Thank you to all the adults who came and assisted in the hunt. We also enjoyed our walk around the local area, following a map and identifying physical and human features as part of our Geography work. Thank you again to the adults who accompanied us. We hope you all have a restful half term and we look forward to starting our Fire, Fire learning in November.



In Reception we have been learning about the four seasons. We talked about changes that happen as we go through the year, particularly in relation to plants, animals and the weather.

We thought about what we would expect to see outside now that it is Autumn. We talked about how some trees lose their leaves and these may change colour before they drop to the ground. We talked about how some trees drop their seeds at this time of year as well. We put on our wellies and went for a walk on the field. We looked all around for signs of Autumn. We found leaves of many different colours that had fallen from trees. We saw berries and pine cones. We were so quiet, we were even able to spot a squirrel running past us!

Well done Reception for using your fantastic observational skills and finding so many Autumn treasures!

Please remember if your child has been sent home in a change of clothes, please can you return these to school, washed, as soon as possible. Thank you.

Low Income Free School Meals

All infant school children receive a Universal Free School Meal. However, if you are on a low income your child may be eligible for pupil premium/low income free school meals which releases vital funding to the school (£1,550, per year, per eligible child), in addition to over £100 worth of benefits from the school, as follows:

- * the Government provides shopping vouchers for school holidays including half terms (approx £10-£15 per child per school holiday week)
- * free school jumper or cardigan per year (usually saving £14-16)
- * free book bag, PE bag, and water bottle per year (saving of £9)
- * free school trips (approx saving of £12-£16)
- * free in-house school clubs (approx saving of £15)
- * free holidays clubs, including meals

If you think that your child may be eligible please apply online using the link below, or search "WSCC free school meals" to navigate to the application:- <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals>

If you need help with this application or access to a PC, we would be very happy to assist. Please contact Clare Tidbury in the school office, or email office@thegattons.co.uk Thank you for helping to support our school.

Mobile phones

Please remember that we have a no phones on the playground policy when you are dropping off and picking up your children. We will remind you politely if you are using them. Please support us with this in safeguarding all of our children.



TUMMY BUGS!

Please remember that if your child is unwell with sickness and/or diarrhoea for whatever reason, they **MUST** stay away from school until they have been symptom free for a **MINIMUM** of 48 hours. This period of time significantly reduces the risk of the bug spreading throughout the school. We will request that children are collected if we discover they have not been symptom free for 48 hours. Thank you.





ATTENDANCE MATTERS

every student, every day

Attendance

We would like to remind parents and carers that we are only able to authorise absence in term time in exceptional circumstances which does not include family holidays. If possible, please try to arrange dental appointments for after school or in the holidays.

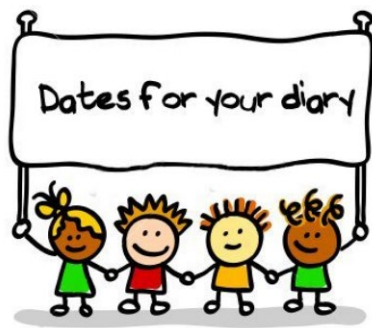
Arriving on time for school is important as late arrivals are disruptive for the class and can be embarrassing for the child. A child who is late for school is missing out on a very important part of the school day including setting out the context for the work for the day - the classroom doors are opened at 8.50am for the children to come in and start at 8.55am. We want to have all our children in class ready to start the school day promptly and would ask parents for their support in this aim. Thank you.

Please look out for our separate Attendance Newsletter which gives up to date information on our attendance figures as well as helpful information and guidance.

Reporting a child's absence

If you need to report your child's absence by email (office@thegattons.co.uk) or via the answerphone, can you please ensure you have included your child's full name **AND** class. Thank you. If we do not hear from you by 9.25am, we will ring you to find out why your child is not in school. Any arrival at school after 9.25am is unauthorised (unless it is for a previously authorised reason). Please be aware that 10 unauthorised absences can result in a Fixed Penalty Notice fine which is issued by the Local Authority. Please do NOT report absence via our website as this is not monitored on a regular basis. Thank you.





October

Friday 23rd

Monday 26th—Friday 30th

INSET Day - School closed for children

Half Term Holiday

November

Wednesday 4th

Thursday 5th

Monday 9th

Tuesday 10th

Wednesday 11th

Friday 13th

Friday 20th

Saturday 21st

Tuesday 24th

Tuesday 24th

Thursday 26th

Thursday 26th

Non Uniform Day - FOGS Chocolate Donations

Reception Learning Meeting - 9am

Open Mornings for new Reception Parents

Flu Immunisation - Details to follow

Open Mornings for new Reception Parents

Children In Need Day - Details to follow

Non Uniform Day - FOGS Christmas Fayre Donations

FOGS Christmas Fayre 12.00 - 2.30pm

Open Mornings for new Reception Parents

Parent/Teacher Consultation Meetings - Details to follow

Open Mornings for new Reception Parents

Parent/Teacher Consultation Meetings - Details to follow

December

Tuesday 1st

Tuesday 8th

Monday 14th

Tuesday 15th

Thursday 17th

FOGS Christmas Discos - Y1 & Y2

Carol Service @ Kings Church - Years 1 & 2 - 2pm

Reception Nativity at school 9.20am or 2.15pm

Thank you assembly for volunteers

'All Things Christmas' Day - Details to follow

Provisional dates - please be aware these are subject to change

REMAINING INSET DAYS 2026/2027

Friday 23rd October 2026

Monday 4th January 2027

Thursday 25th March 2027

Monday 7th June 2027