



G A Y T O N P R I M A R Y S C H O O L
GAYTON ROAD • HESWALL • WIRRAL • CH60 8PZ

Newsletter 8- 8th December 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas....We can't believe that we are nearly at the end of the autumn term. It has been a busy and challenging term but it has been so wonderful to have all our children back in school despite all the covid-19 restrictions. I am so grateful to all my staff who have worked tirelessly throughout the term. They have constantly adapted to new guidelines; remote learning expectations; health and safety guidance as well as ensuring high standards of teaching and learning. Our children have been amazing and have taken all the changes in their stride and genuinely seem to just enjoy being back in school with their friends. Many thanks to all our parents for your continued support during these challenging times. We remain hopeful that things may begin to improve in the spring term so that an increasing sense of normality may be possible for our whole school community.

Walk to Lapland:

Despite the weather, the children really enjoyed participating in the Walk to Lapland on Friday 4th December 2020. The competitive spirit of the children certainly came out with many of the children choosing to run as they wanted to clock up as many miles as they could for their class. Many thanks to all the parents who have supported the event outside school by taking your child on family walks and logging the mileage and to all the parents who have sponsored the children for this event. Huge thanks to Mr Boyd as well for supporting the PTA by setting up the mileage tracker for parents to use. Finally, well done to our Y1 children who won the trophy for clocking up the most mileage as part of the event.



Headteacher: Mrs McAleny

T. 0151 342 3772 • F. 0151 342 8124

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Gayton's Christmas Celebration 2020 DVD:

On Friday, we were very lucky to be able to watch our Christmas Celebration DVD. This comprises our KS1 nativity **'Honky, Tonky Donkey'** and our KS2 children singing some Christmas carols just as they would if they were in church for our usual Carol Service. I am incredibly grateful to staff for working so hard to embrace the covid guidelines and working together to put something together for parents. Also, many thanks to all our parents for your support with the costumes for the nativity. All of the children looked wonderful and there was something very special about filming the nativity outside with our very own stable and donkey! On the day of filming, the videographer didn't have the easiest job as the weather was not in our favour and there was a lot of additional background noise (outside of our control) but the KS1 children worked so hard to do their very best and we really hope that you will enjoy the performance!



PTA Letters to Santa:

A reminder that all letters need to be received by **Friday 11th December 2020**. There is a special post box for the children to post their letters into. It has been in the F2, Y1 and Y2 area but this week we will be moving it into the Y3 & 4 and Y5 & 6 area so that the children can post their letters from our older year groups as well.



Elfridges Christmas Shop:



The Christmas shop will be open on **Friday 11th December 2020**. If your child would like to participate, gifts can be purchased via Parent Pay for £2.00 per gift. In order to help the PTA with the organisation for this event, please try and do this as soon as you can.

Christmas Dinner Day:

Our Christmas dinner day will be on Wednesday 16th December 2020. The children can come to school wearing a Christmas jumper with their school uniform. Payments for Christmas dinner can be made via Parent Pay. The PTA have purchased eco-friendly crackers for the children to have with their dinner.

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Christmas Pantomimes:

Many thanks to our PTA who have paid for us to have two virtual pantomimes this year.

The children will have the opportunity to watch the pantomimes in class and we will also get to participate in a zoom call with the cast of Jack and the Beanstalk.



Christmas Party Day and Hat making day.



On Thursday 17th December 2020, it will be our Christmas party day. Your child can wear their own clothes to school. As part of the day, the children will also be making party hats. Your child won't need to bring anything in to school on this day as everything will be provided. We are very grateful to the PTA who have organised the party in a box for every class. We know our children are going to love this and will have a wonderful party day!

Santa Wagon- Monday 14th December 2020



The Santa Wagon will be making its way around Gayton on Monday 14th December 2020. Due to the covid-19 restrictions, we won't be asking for volunteers this year as they are unable to knock on people's doors in order to collect donations. You can still make a donation to the Santa Wagon if you would like to. This can be done by text message:

- To donate £1.00 text HOHOHO to 70201**
- To donate £3.00 text HOHOHO to 70331**
- To donate £5.00 text HOHOHO to 70970**
- To donate £10.00 text HOHOHO to 70191**



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Reminder: Neo- Community Centre- Charity work



Many thanks to all the families who have taken a gift tag to buy a gift for a child on the Wirral this Christmas. All gifts must be returned by **Friday 11th December by 9:30am** as they will be collected on this day. Please remember that all gifts must be placed in a gift bag and the original tag included so that they can identify the age group of the child. We are so appreciative to everyone for taking part in this and know that this will make a huge difference to children on the Wirral this Christmas time.

Family Parenting course:

Family Matters Service are offering all Wirral schools the opportunity for parents to access a four week family parenting programme relating to: **Handy Hints and Top Tips for parents with children (Primary age)**

The delivery of these sessions will be via Microsoft Teams and the first round of the sessions will be on the 14th January between 10:30am- 11am for 4 weeks.

Below is an overview of what will be covered in each session. If you are interested, please just contact the school office and then we will be in touch with further details.

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
*Building Blocks (The Four Constructs- Self Awareness/ Appropriate expectations/ Empathy/ *Positive discipline *The Art of listening *How we communicate *Giving praise	*Starry skies and kindness chart *Praise and criticism *Guiding without criticising *Time to play/Child led play	*The need for consistency and boundaries *Time to calm down *Stress brings distress *Handling anger	*Choices and consequences *Behaviour to ignore (Active Ignoring) *Nurturing ourselves *Keeping children safe in the digital world

End of term:

School will close on Friday 18th December 2020 for the Christmas holiday. KS1 & siblings will be dismissed from 2:20pm whilst KS2 children will be dismissed at 2:30pm. This is just to ensure that we still have a staggered ending to the school day. S4YC will be open as usual at the end of the day but they will be closing at 5:00pm.

Reminders:

Please can parents ensure that all jumpers/cardigans have name labels in them. We are trying really hard to reunite children with lost/forgotten items on a daily basis but it is virtually impossible when they are not named.

Thank you for your continued support,
Kind regards,

Mrs McAleny

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Key Dates:

Date	Event
4 th December 2020 – 11 th December 2020	Virtual Christmas Fair
11 th December 2020	PTA Elfridges Christmas Shop – £2.00 per gift, please make payments via parent pay and state who the gift is for in the comments.
11 th December 2020	Neo Community Collection of gifts- gifts will be collected by 9:30am on this morning.
14 th December 2020	Round Table Carol Wagon- Gayton route.
15 th December 2020	Catch up Flu Vaccine for any children who were absent for the first round.
16 th December 2020	Christmas Dinner day – children can wear their school uniform with a Christmas jumper or Christmas hat.
17 th December 2020	PTA Party Day & hat making day – children can wear their own clothes to school. (see further details distributed by the PTA.)
18 th December 2020	Break up today for Christmas holiday. 2:20pm- F2, Y1 & Y2 & Junior Siblings. 2:30pm- KS2.

4 th January 2021	Inset Day- School not open to children.
5 th January 2021	Children return to school.
15 th January 2021	Homework to commence
1 st February 2021	PTA EGM Meeting at 7:30pm

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