



G A Y T O N   P R I M A R Y   S C H O O L  
G A Y T O N   R O A D   •   H E S W A L L   •   W I R R A L   •   C H 6 0   8 P Z

## Newsletter 1 – 10.09.19

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year. I hope everyone had a lovely summer holiday. I am absolutely delighted to have started in post and consider it a privilege to have been appointed as the new Headteacher of Gayton Primary School. I believe Gayton is a school with huge potential. I am passionate about teaching and learning and have the highest expectations of all the staff and children and I know that by working together, alongside parents, we can raise standards in every area to ensure that all children achieve their full potential.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first few days at Gayton; the children really are truly exceptional and I am amazed by how caring, thoughtful and respectful they are. The staff have also been incredibly welcoming and are clearly very dedicated and passionate about providing the very best education for all the children.

Over the next few weeks and months, I am very much looking forward to getting to know all our families. Please do come along and introduce yourself just so I can get to know as many faces as quickly as I can!

### **New teaching appointments:**

A special welcome to our three new teachers: Miss Nederlof is teaching in Y1 and joins us from Whitby Heath School; Mrs Jones is our Y6 teacher who previously taught at The Oaks Community Primary and Miss Hudson, who is teaching Y3, joins us from Overchurch Junior.

I have no doubt that these three members of staff are going to be a great addition to the existing Gayton staff team.

### **New starters:**

Our F2 children start school yesterday on a staggered programme until they are full-time (week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019). I am sure that they will all make a great start to their school journey at Gayton. We also have a number of new starters across the school. We hope that they will settle into school life at Gayton as quickly as possible and know that all the children will make them feel very welcome.

### **Our school values:**

Last term, the children and staff agreed on our six school values. A value is a principle that guides our thinking and our behaviour. At Gayton, every individual is valued for who they are and they can contribute to the school. Our values are intended to support the personal, social and spiritual development of every pupil throughout the school. Our whole staff team is involved in promoting values and recognising where others are 'living the values' on a daily basis.

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This half term during assembly time we will be focusing on the value of friendship.

**Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together.**

Values	Half term
Friendship	Autumn term 1
Respect	Autumn term 2
Perseverance	Spring term 1
Truthfulness	Spring term 2
Compassion	Summer term 1
Courage	Summer term 2

**Friendships are like buildings; they need to have firm foundations of trust and encouragement. How do you 'build up' and encourage your friends?**

As parents, it would be helpful if you could talk to your child about these values at home and make references to examples of these values in action as this then reinforces the children's understanding of how they can demonstrate the value throughout their everyday life.

### **School Council**

Last week, every class elected their school council representatives. Well done to all the children who put themselves forward for the role. The teachers were very impressed with the number of children who wanted to stand for election and also in the time they took to prepare their speeches to their class.

Our school council held their first meeting with me on Friday where the children discussed why it was important to them to be a school councillor and what they wanted to gain from the experience. The children were very articulate and could explain clearly how they wanted to make a difference to school life.

### **Celebration assembly**

We have changed our merit assembly on a Friday to a celebration assembly as we are extending out some of the ways in which we are celebrating aspects of school life.

**Headteacher awards-** Every week someone from each class will be selected to receive a Headteacher award. This will be based on their work which could be in any subject from the curriculum.

**Merit award-** One child to be recognised for demonstrating the school value for that particular half term.

**Attendance trophy-** This will be awarded to the class with the highest attendance for the week. We will also be keeping a running record of the class with the highest attendance over the half term and term.

**House Points-** There will be a trophy awarded to the house who have earned the most dojo points during the week. We have changed the way that dojos are awarded at Gayton for the start of the year. In every class the dojos will be awarded for the children displaying one of the six values or for demonstrating good work or for lining up.

**Birthdays-** We will celebrate the children who have had a birthday that week during the assembly.

We will share photographs of the children selected in our celebration assembly on our Twitter feed (if we are permitted to use their image) so please do follow us @GaytonPrimary

### **Introduction of Picture News**

Every week we will be sharing (across the school) an article from the news. This is to try and increase children's awareness of global or national news items. We will be using this as focus for some of our assemblies and trying to further develop pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and, within this, the promotion of fundamental British values which are at the heart of the school's work. We aim to keep your child up to date with the fast-changing world around them, helping them to challenge their ideas and pre-conceptions. Ultimately, this will help to broaden their horizons and enable them to deal with the modern world.

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### School Timetable:

Last term the decision was made to review the school timetable. Our lunchtime has now been moved to 12:05pm-1:05pm as it was felt that lots of the children (and staff) really struggled to wait until 12:30pm in order to have their lunch. By moving lunchtime, we now have a much longer afternoon session which will facilitate further curriculum coverage for our foundation subjects which is important as all schools are now reviewing their wider curriculum.

### An overview of the school timetable is below:

8:50am-9:00am Registration & morning activity

9:00am-10:00am- 1<sup>st</sup> lesson

10:00am-10:20am- Assembly

10:20am- 10:35am- Break time.

10:35am- 11:35am- 2<sup>nd</sup> lesson

11:35am-12:05pm- 3<sup>rd</sup> lesson

12:05pm-1:05pm- Lunchtime

1:05pm- 2:05pm- 4<sup>th</sup> lesson

2:05pm- KS1 Break time at KS1

2:20pm- 3:20pm- 5<sup>th</sup> lesson

3:20pm- Home time (F2, Y1 & Y2)

3:25pm- Home time (Y3-6)

KS2 do not have a set afternoon break but will have a natural break when required.

### Before & After School Club Provision:

Day of the week	Club	Company	From	To	Times	Year groups
Monday	<b>Multi-Skills</b>	Full of Beans	16/09/19	09/12/2019	8:00am- 8:50am	Y1-Y3
Monday	<b>Dance around</b>	Full of Beans	16/09/19	09/12/2019	3:20pm-4:20pm	Y1-Y3
Tuesday	<b>Gymnastics</b>	Full of Beans	17/09/19	10/12/2019	8:00am-8:50am	Y1-Y3
Wednesday	<b>Fencing</b>	Little Musketeers	18/09/19	11/12/2019	8:00am-8:50am	Y3-Y6
Wednesday	<b>Gymnastics</b>	Full of Beans	18/09/19	11/12/2019	3:20pm-4:20pm	Y4-Y6
Thursday	<b>Multi Sports</b>	SFA	12/09/19	24/10/2019	3:30pm-4:20pm	Y3-Y6
Friday	<b>Boxercise</b>	SFA	13/09/19	25/10/2019	8:00am-8:50am	Y3-Y6

I am aware that some parents have been disappointed that I have made the decision that club providers are no longer able to offer a club which is accessible from Reception- Y6. This decision has been made based on reviewing health and safety guidelines and ensuring the safety of our children is given the highest priority at all times. I personally do not feel that children can benefit from a quality session when a coach is having to deal with children where this a potential age gap of 7 years. Developmentally, the gap between the children is too great. I fully encourage pupils (during lunchtimes and break times) to play with the younger children and build those relationships. However, I feel very strongly that when parents are being charged for the provision, it is only right that we guarantee the quality and do not feel that, in a coaching session, older pupils should be looking after the younger children.

I am responsible for the health and safety of all activities within school and have to risk-assess appropriately using my professional judgement which is based on good-practice models. Ultimately, I am unable to allow a club to continue if I do not feel that it is going to be appropriate from a best practice coaching or health and safety perspective.

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**Absence:**

Please ensure that you telephone the office before *9:00am* on the day of any absence (please leave a message on the answerphone if there is no reply.) We need to be made aware of any absence promptly in order to ensure that your child is safeguarded appropriately. Children arriving late must enter via the office and sign in. Please do try to ensure that your child is punctual to school at all times.

**Holidays in term time & medical appointments:**

Holidays in term time will only be authorised in exceptional cases, taking into account the age of the child, the time of year proposed for the trip and the overall attendance pattern of the child. Wherever possible, health appointments should be made outside of the school day to minimise the disruption to your child's education. A request for absence form must be completed for **any** arranged appointments/absences during school time.

**Homework:**

Homework will commence week beginning **16<sup>th</sup> September 2019**. Further information regarding the expectations for each year group will be shared before this date. In the meantime, until formal homework commences, please can I ask that all parents ensure that your child is reading at home. Developing a passion for reading with your child really is the greatest gift that you can give your child as it will prepare them well for their future whilst at Gayton and beyond. It is important to set aside a small amount of time each day (age appropriate) for your child to read but also I cannot stress enough the importance of also reading to your child and discussing together new vocabulary or just enjoying a book together.

**Working in partnership with parents:**

As a Headteacher, I am incredibly passionate about working with parents for the best of your child. If you have any concerns about your child, please speak with their class teacher who is always the first port of call. Teachers are on the playground at the end of the school day on the playground or alternatively you can contact the school office and leave a message to ask for the teacher to call you back. Please remember that they are teaching all day so they may not be able to call you back straight away but they will make contact as soon as is practically possible.

**New screens and teacher ipads**

During the summer holiday, every classroom has been fitted with a brand new screen and also each class has been provided with an iPad. We are very grateful to the PTA for making this possible as without them this would never have happened. The staff and the children are very much enjoying using their new boards and the quality of the image on the screens is fantastic. Thank you to everyone who has supported fundraising events at Gayton and also to the PTA for all their efforts in raising the money.

**School Uniform:**

The children have returned to school looking very smart. Children wearing school uniform promotes a sense of pride and symbolises belonging to the school and a sense of our community. Please ensure that your child is wearing either brown or black school shoes as trainers are not permitted unless it is your child's PE day.

Children are allowed to wear stud earrings to school but these need to be removed or covered for any PE session in school. If your child is wearing additional jewellery items to school, members of staff will ask them to remove them so please ensure that this does not happen.

Please can I urge all parents to ensure that you have labelled your child's clothing so if they lose it, it can easily be returned to them. In particular, please take care if you have written the name in using pen as this naturally fades and then it can become impossible to read.

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**PE Days:**

**Infants-** On PE days the children are to change into their PE kits in school. Therefore they need to keep a PE kit in school for this purpose. On PPA days they can come into school in their tracksuits.

**Juniors-** From now on the children can wear their tracksuit on both their PPA day and PE day. They will also need to keep their PE kit in school to change into their pumps/shorts if they are taking part in gymnastics this term.

Class	PE Day	PPA Day
F2	Monday	Friday
Y1	Tuesday	Thursday
Y2	Wednesday	Thursday
Y3	Thursday	Wednesday
Y4	Monday	Wednesday
Y5	Monday	Tuesday
Y6	Friday	Tuesday

**Healthy snacks**

We operate a healthy snack policy for break times. The children may bring in fruit, chopped vegetables, cheese sticks, toast, breadsticks or crackers; please, no biscuits or chocolate. KS1 children are provided with a piece of fruit/vegetable per day as part of the national healthy fruit scheme but you are welcome to provide an additional snack as outlined above. Please supply a named water bottle for your child. This should only be filled with water (the children can refill these throughout the day).

**Tour of Britain Cycling event- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 the Tour of Britain will be passing through Heswall. School will be open as usual but we do want parents to be aware that you may experience some travel disruption, if you use your car to collect your child from school at the end of the day. There are road closures and also parking restrictions in place.

This is the information that has been sent to school regarding the event:

Between 11:00am and 4:00pm on Wednesday 11 September 2019 a number of roads will be closed under a rolling road block for approximately 45 minutes during this time period to ensure the safe passage of the Tour of Britain Race. Estimated timings for a number of locations along the route can be found via the link below. This includes timings for different race speeds on the day. Road closures will come into effect approximately 15 minutes before the lead riders.

**Stage 5 timetable:**

<https://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/stage-five-timetable/>

Where possible access will be maintained for residents and businesses and roads will be re-opened once the last event vehicle passes a given point.

**SENDCo release time:**

The Governing Body have agreed to release Mrs Daly from class on a weekly basis so that she can access additional release time for her role as SENDCo within the school. This is to ensure that the profile of SEND is raised within the school and will allow Mrs Daly time to monitor the provision for SEN pupils in school. In order to facilitate this release time, this means that every Friday Y2 will be taught by Mrs Stark. Mrs Stark is an experienced teacher who has taught at a number of different Wirral schools. Mrs Daly will be working closely with Mrs Stark regarding the class and they will be discussing and sharing planning. Mrs Daly will still be in school on this day, unless she is attending meetings at a different venue, therefore this is ideal as she will be continually liaising with Mrs Stark during the day and before and after school.

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**School dinner menus:**

On our school website you can find the school dinner menu for the term. Dinners can be ordered at a cost of £2.35 per day. All payments for school meals must be made via the Parent Pay system. Infant children are entitled to a free school meal every day.

**Upcoming dates:**

Upcoming dates will be sent out this week so that you have an overview of the key dates for this academic year.

I look forward to working in partnership with you all to achieve the very best for the children at Gayton.

Kind regards

Mrs McAleny  
Headteacher

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