

Gayton Primary School/

'POSITIVE MINDS, POSITIVE FUTURES'

SEPTEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers

A warm welcome back after the Summer holiday, I hope that you all had a wonderful time with the children. A special welcome goes out to our new families and children, I do hope that you will become actively involved in the life of the school; we are fortunate to have a thriving PTA and your ideas would be welcome. We hope you are all looking forward to the new year as much as we are!



The children have returned full of excitement, news about their holiday adventures and it is lovely to see them all again. They all look really smart, please do ensure that all their school clothing is clearly labelled - **first name, surname and year group is best!**

For those of you that are new to the school, newsletters usually come out on the first Friday of each month, please do look out for them in your email inbox or on the school website (www.gayton.wirral.sch.uk). We are endeavouring to move towards 'paperless' communication with parents, however if absolutely necessary, we can send out hard copies – please request this via the school office. If we do not have your current contact details, including your email address, please contact Mrs Longworth in the school office as soon as possible (admin@gayton.wirral.sch.uk) so we can update our information. Likewise, if you are not receiving emails, contact us immediately so that we can deal with this. For those of you new to school, if you have a **'BTInternet'** email address, please open a new account for school correspondence, as BT sites are blocked by our Internet firewall and we cannot send emails to these addresses at the moment.

If you need to get a message/item to your child or a member of staff, please go to the office so that staff can pass this on or escort you through the building if necessary. All school visitors are asked to sign in and to display an identity lanyard, which we ask you to wear at all times while you are on the premises, for safeguarding purposes. Please do not attempt to enter the school through any other entrance, or without permission.

Our school Twitter feed ([@Gaytonprimary](https://twitter.com/Gaytonprimary)) is updated with news and pictures of class work/events. Each class also has its own feed, just insert the class name followed by the word 'Gayton' as follows, for example: [@Y2Gayton](https://twitter.com/Y2Gayton). If you look at the news feed tab on our website, you can also view the class information that is posted.

Staff news

We welcome back Mrs Schofield in her new guise as Mrs Boatwright, after her wedding during the Summer; congratulations and best wishes from everyone at school!

We welcome several new staff to our team this year; Mrs Parker will teach Year One on Fridays, with Mrs Dinsdale teaching the remainder of the week. Miss Spearing starts as Teaching Assistant in our Foundation 2 (Reception) class and Mrs Doogan as Teaching Assistant in Year Five.

New starters

Apart from our new Foundation 2 children, we are pleased to also welcome Emrys, Morgan and Tegan Peters, Josh Hatton, Sophie Simms, Ryan Richmond and Olivia Rafter. We do hope that they settle quickly into life at Gayton.

S4YC out of school care

S4YC run our out of school care, which operates from the Resource room (the classroom through the pedestrian gate at the end of the car park). S4YC's school-based staff are Jan, Gaynor and Irene. The club operates from 7.45am-6pm. We strongly recommend that all parents register their child with S4YC; in case of an emergency or a delay, you can book your child in via the website. In case of queries, speak to our school-based staff, contact Kaye Forshaw (07717 383702) or look at the S4YC website for information: <http://www.s4yc.co.uk/class/s4yc-gayton>. Please do ensure that if your child attends S4YC, they are always escorted through the car park by an adult.

Dates for the term & year

An Autumn term event calendar is included in this newsletter; further information will be sent out as the term progresses. Events in bold are key events for your information, so that you can make arrangements to attend well in advance. Also attached is an academic year calendar; please take note of staff training (INSET) days, when the children do not attend school.





IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

Please ensure that you telephone the office before 9.30am on the day of any absence (please leave a message on the answerphone if there is no reply) or email admin@gayton.wirral.sch.uk. We need to be made aware of any absence promptly for your child's protection, so we are assured of their safety. Children arriving late must enter via the office and sign in; likewise, please ensure that you sign out your child (as a safeguarding measure), if they need to leave early for any reason.

Parental communication

Our first parent-teacher meetings will be held on **Wednesday 26th September**. This is an important opportunity to meet your child's teacher and to find out what they will be learning, homework expectations, how to keep in touch with us, who teaches your child's class and what their timetable is, specific curriculum content and ideas to help support your child. There will be a preliminary talk in the Hall at 4.45pm which covers general curriculum content, how/why we give feedback and assess the children, rewards and sanctions and how to get in touch about issues of concern. The first meeting takes place at 5pm, with a repeat at 5.30pm for those of you with more than one child in school. Please note that although we will post the information discussed on the school website, this is only a summary and attendance is best.

We hope this first meeting will help ensure that you are well-informed about the year to come.

Our first individual Parent-Teacher Meetings are set for **Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th October**. Appointment booking details will be sent out nearer the time.

If you have any concerns, you are able to speak to staff at any mutually convenient time by appointment. Please do come in to discuss issues, so that we can work together to resolve any problems. Please speak to staff at the earliest opportunity - teaching staff are normally available at the end of the school day on the playground for informal discussion and you are welcome to make an appointment via the school office if this is not convenient. If a teacher is not available, they will endeavour to get back to you at the earliest opportunity. Please let the office staff know brief details of the matter, so that the teacher understands the nature of the communication.

ALL PARENTS - PLANNED ABSENCES

Please do read this section, even if your child is already a pupil in school.

- The school actively discourages children's absence during school sessions, including for family holidays.
Wherever possible, health appointments should be made outside the school day to minimise disruption to your child's education. A request for absence form must be completed for any arranged appointments during school time.
- Permission for term-time absences will only be given in **exceptional** circumstances; please have an informal discussion with me prior to any bookings being made, to ascertain whether the request is likely to be granted.
- Any request must be submitted in writing using the 'request for absence' form (available from: <http://www.gayton.wirral.sch.uk/policies-1/>). The reason for absence must be detailed, including why this cannot be taken outside school hours. Supporting evidence should be attached (shift patterns, written requests for a child's attendance at a particular event etc.). The more detail provided about the circumstances that require consideration, the easier it is for us to make a quick decision.
- **Please ensure the request is made in good time; please do NOT make any travel arrangements (flight bookings etc.) until the request is authorised.**
- **Please note that no authorisation will be granted for the first three weeks in May; this is an assessment period for the whole school.**

Parking

We ask all parents to respect our neighbours' driveways – we work hard to ensure good relationships with local residents and need your help to maintain this. Corners of local side roads and the school car park (staff and booked visitors only) are areas to be avoided as well, please. Parking near school is an ongoing issue, we ask you all to respect the time-limited coned area, which helps to ensure a safe crossing area for the children. Please work with us as part of our community to ensure children's safety, be patient if you have to walk a small distance to school and ensure that you do not park illegally, as we have random visits from the traffic officers. Please make sure that anyone involved in your child's care is aware of the above guidance (carers, grandparents etc.).



School clothing

Correct school clothing should be worn at all times, including brown or black shoes. We always have an enormous amount of lost property usually due to unclear/un-named items. We know how expensive clothing is, please do label everything.

As mentioned last term, 'tracksuit' days have changed for this year, classes will need to wear their tracksuits as follows: Y5 Wednesdays, Y1, Y6 Thursdays, all other classes Fridays.

PE kits should be brought in on Mondays and taken home for washing on Fridays. Please do ensure that your child has this available in school for the week.

Extra-curricular activities

Information will soon be sent out regarding the extra-curricular activities that will be on offer this term. Please do suggest ideas for any new clubs, so we can consider augmenting our range of activities. Externally provided activities are unfortunately charged for; the school only charges what the provider charges and we try to keep costs to parents to a minimum, with an emphasis on quality of provision and value for money. We hope to offer a mix of sporting, creative, science and language activities during the year.

When after-school activities end, children are escorted to the balcony area at the front of the school. Please ensure that you are punctual meeting your child; it can be very distressing if they do not know where you are and the person running the club does not have this information.

Office news

Due to rising costs from our provider, Edsential catering, we have had to slightly increase the price for school lunches to £2.35 per day this academic year (£11.75 per week. £79.90 for the half term). We are now operating as a cashless school and all transactions should be paid via ParentPay. If you do not have an account, this is simple to set up and can be used for payments for all school activities, even allowing for part-payments for events such as residential. For parents new to the school, the office will be in touch to show you how to set up a ParentPay account. Once you are signed up, this can be downloaded as an app on your smartphone, or accessed via their internet site, including through the link on our website.



Infant children are entitled to free school lunches and menu choices are available on our website, so that all parents can see the type of food on offer (<http://www.gayton.wirral.sch.uk/about-us/>).

School timetable

Children supervised on playground 8.40-8.50am (please ensure that your child is not at school earlier than this, unless supervised by S4YC from 7.45am – 8.40am)

Registration & lessons begin:	8.50am	
Morning break	10.10-10.25am	
Lunchtime	12.30-1.30pm	
Afternoon break	2.20-2.35pm	
End of school	3.20pm (Infants)	3.25pm (Juniors)

After their induction period, the F2 children will be brought out to the fenced-off area on the lower playground. Parents should come to collect their child from the line, so that the staff can ensure each child is met. At 3.20pm, Y1/2 children should be met by the playground fence gate halfway along the lower playground. Junior children will exit through the gate nearest the building; please leave the path clear of pushchairs, dogs etc, so they can exit without obstruction. **Please ensure that in case of any unforeseen difficulties picking your child up at home time, you have alternative care arrangements in place.** Please telephone the school office well before the end of the school day and as soon as you know that you will be late, in order for us to minimise any distress to your child. Please let us know who will take your child home or if you have made arrangements for your child to attend S4YC.

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. Infant 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. The School Council will soon start their 'Healthy Snack' shop for the Junior children; you will receive a letter from the children before this starts. Please supply a named water bottle for your child. This should only be filled with water, please (the children can refill these throughout the day).

Pencil cases for Junior children

It would be appreciated (and it promotes independence) if all Junior children (Y3-Y6) could bring their own pencil cases into school. Minimum recommended content is: a small cm/mm ruler, pencils, an eraser, a glue stick, colouring pencils and a roller, fountain or fibre-tip pen if they are writing in pen (no biro, please). We are really grateful for your help in this matter.

Gayton Parent Teacher Association



Our PTA exists as a fundraising and social body. Its work is vital both as a fundraising organisation and as a social network for families. The date of the first PTA meeting of the year will be publicized very soon. Please do try to be an active participant-come along to offer your ideas or help. No previous experience is needed, just enthusiasm and a desire to help out occasionally! Every parent is automatically a member and every person's contribution counts, they do need your help to make sure that their work is effective. If you

would like to be added to the PTA mailing list please email your details to:

gaytonprimarypta@gmail.com. Present PTA officers are: Sharon Garforth & Lisa Mann (Vice-Chairs), Jenny Daffern (Secretary) and Nicky Chapman (Treasurer).

Please remember the date for the school's 50th birthday celebration: Friday 28th September from 5-7pm. Do come along with the children and enjoy a fun evening!

Communication of issues

New parents are welcome to access the school website to look at the school's anti-bullying policy (<http://www.gayton.wirral.sch.uk/policies-1/>). We are fully committed to ensuring that we discuss any issues quickly with you in the context of these guidelines; as mentioned previously, please do let us know promptly about any circumstances that are likely to affect your child adversely at school. We always want to know if a child is upset by something that took place in school and if we work together, we can help them more effectively by tackling issues as soon as possible after they occur.

Finally, please do try to volunteer your help with our school activities (grandparents are welcome too!), particularly with our younger children. Please talk to your child's teacher if you can help out, whether to offer a particular skill or on a more general level; any offer of help is appreciated! All volunteers will be asked to read and sign a volunteer 'code of conduct' and to complete a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) form for child protection purposes; this is a simple free-of-charge procedure.



On behalf of all our staff, welcome to the new year and I look forward to seeing you all as the term progresses.

Yours sincerely

Mark Whitehill

Headteacher

Gayton Primary School Term Dates 2018-2019

Autumn Term 2018

INSET 1 (staff only) Monday 3 September 2018

Children return Tuesday 4 September 2018

Close Friday 19 October 2018 (35 Days)

HALF TERM - Monday 22 October – Friday 26 October

INSET 2 & 3 (staff only) Monday 29 October, Tuesday 30 October 2018

Children return Wednesday 31 October 20

Close Friday 21 December 2018 (40 Days)

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS – Monday 24 December – Friday 4 January

Spring Term 2019

INSET 4 (staff only) Monday 7 January 2019

Children return Tuesday 8 January 2019

Close Friday 15 February 2019 (30 Days)

HALF TERM – Monday 18 February – Friday 22 February

Open Monday 25 February 2019

Close Friday 29 March 2019 (25 Days)

SPRING BREAK – Monday 1 April – Friday 12 April

Summer Term 2019

Open Monday 15 April 2019

Close Friday 24 May 2019 (27 Days)

EASTER BH – Friday 19 April and Monday 22 April

MAY BANK HOLIDAY – Monday 6 May

HALF TERM – Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May

INSET 5 (staff only) Monday 3 June 2019

Children return Tuesday 4 June 2019

Close Wednesday 24 July 2019 (38 Days)

Autumn Term 2018 – School Opens Monday 2 September 2019 (to be confirmed as INSET 1 for staff)

AUTUMN TERM 2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sep 3-7	3-INSET1 (marking update, homework, Alan Peat coverage, cross-curricular opportunities, values-based education) 4: Children return + F2 parents' meetings 5: F2 parents' meetings, PPA starts 6: F2 gr1 7: F2 gr2	Oct 8-12	10: Hi Impact ICT support:AM Y2 Pic collage PM F2 Tiny tap 12: Y6 to Stockport Tunnels	Nov 19-23	23: Non-uniform day in return for filled sweet jars, bottles and teddies for Christmas fair tombolas Sat 24: Birkenhead high entrance exam Tranmere match day experience (v Oldham)
Sep 10-14	10: Upton hall entrance exam. 10&11: F2 A/B groups 12&13: F2 B/A groups 12: X-country practice begins 14: F2- whole class in until 1.30pm	Oct 15-19	17: 3.30-7pm Parents Meetings 18 3.30-7pm Parents Meetings 4.15pm X-country @ Arrowe Pk (provisional) 19: 9am Good to be Green (GTBG) certificate assembly, 11am GTBG activities 12.30pm Golden Table 3.20/3.25pm Break up for half term 21 – 11+ results to parents.	Nov 26-30	30: 5-7pm PTA Christmas fair Sun 2/12 PTA Santa Dash (Liverpool)
Sep 17-21	17: AM - 11+ exam, No F2 in (Assessment day) Hi Impact working with Y4 on databases (Airtable) 18: F2 Full day start 20: 4.15pm X country @ Arrowe Park (provisional) 21: St Anselm's entrance exam	Oct 29-Nov 2	29 & 30 : INSET 2 & 3 staff training 31: Secondary preference application deadline 1/11: 4pm Buildings/H&S governors' meeting, 6pm Finance governors' meeting	Dec 3-7	5: Eve: PTA Wreath-making
Sep 24-28	24: 4pm Governors' Safeguarding committee 26: Parents' information meetings: 4.45pm Introductory meeting in Hall for 5 & 5.30pm 27: Y5 Bikeability safe cycling day 1 28:5-7pm School 50 th birthday celebration	Nov 5-9	6: 4pm Curriculum governors' meeting 6pm Staffing governors' meeting 8: PM Flu immunisations for F2-Y5 9: PTA Non-uniform day (Chocolate for Bingo) Chocolate 'count-up 9am in Hall	Dec 10-14	11: 9.30am Infant rehearsal to Juniors 13: PM Yr 5&6 (or full KS2) Church rehearsal IF NEEDED 14: 9.30am Infant Nativity performance 1 Christmas jumper day (fundraiser)
Oct 1-5	4: Y5 Bikeability safe cycling day 2 3.40pm X-country @ Higher Beb (provisional) 5: 2.30pm F2 Open Afternoon	Nov 12-16	Anti-bullying week + Children in Need week 12: 6.30pm F2 reading workshop (provisional) 14: 6pm Full governors mtg 15: <i>Children in Need assembly (whole school)</i> 6pm Chocolate Bingo 16: CIN fundraising event (TBA)	Dec 17-21	18: PM KS2 to Church rehearsal 6pm Infant performance 2 19: 9.15am KS2 service for Infants (Hall) 12.30pm Christmas lunch 7pm KS2 service in St Peter's Church 20: AM- Whole school cinema visit Pre-school performance 21: 9am GTBG certs presented 11-12 GTBG activities 2.30pm End of term