



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 10- Tuesday 1st March 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to the spring 2nd half term. We hope you had a lovely half term break.

Staffing update:

Staff
Update

Mrs Ahmad has sadly resigned from her post as teaching assistant at Gayton. We will miss her greatly and thank her for her commitment and dedication to Gayton for all the years that she has worked at the school. We are currently in the process of advertising for Mrs Ahmad's post and will hopefully be recruiting someone shortly, but have internal arrangements in place to cover her in the short term.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Little to join our staffing team. Mrs Little will be working five mornings in Year 6 supporting teaching and learning. Mrs Ashcroft, who has been working in Year 6, has requested a reduction in her working hours so she will now be working on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon providing additional intervention support. This will initially be prioritised to our Year 6 pupils but following the Year 6 SATs, Mrs Ashcroft will be working with some of our Year 5 pupils as well.

Parents' evening

Many thanks to all the parents who attended our virtual parents' evening sessions in the last week of the half term holiday. It was a new experience for the staff, but the feedback from staff has been positive. We are hoping that as we move into the living with covid-19 phase that virtual parents' evenings will no longer be necessary, but it is useful for us to know that this system definitely works in case we have to revert to meetings like this again in the future. However, we know that parents have missed the opportunity to see their child's work in their books so we will offer this opportunity to parents on the OPAL parents' afternoons. The dates and times for these are on the dates overview at the end of this newsletter.

Parking concerns in the local area:

The parking situation around school continues to concern me. Despite numerous requests and communication sent to parents, we still have a number of parents who are not considering the safety of all our children and families and continue to park or drive in an inconsiderate way in the local area. This includes: stopping to drop children off in the bus stop, parking opposite school and parking on double yellow lines further down Gayton Road.



Over the past few weeks, I have been liaising with the local authority, police and Wirral's road safety team to share my concerns. Wirral Council have launched the School Street Pilot but have already selected the six schools that are working as part of this pilot over the next two years. We have expressed an interest in becoming part of this pilot, if it is successful and they extend the scheme.

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However, we have now been offered the opportunity to become part of the Modeshift STARS National Accreditation programme. This programme aims to work with schools to look at further ways in which we can encourage safe, sustainable travel to schools and encourage behaviour change amongst our school community. Mrs Hulley and our eco-team will be working with an active travel officer from Wirral council as we start to roll out this scheme after the Easter holiday. Further information will be distributed to parents in due course.

Punctuality:

Reminder: Please can I remind all parents that all children should be in school by **8:50am**. We are seeing an increasing number of families arriving late which results in lost learning time and disruption to the school office and classes when children arrive late. Your support with this would be gratefully appreciated as we need all our children in school on time.

Year 6 SATs Parents' meeting – Monday 21st March 2022 at 7:00pm.



Y6 SATs are definitely going ahead this year and will take place in the week commencing **9th May 2022**. We would therefore like the opportunity to invite parents into school to discuss the format of the tests and ways in which you can continue to support your child. You are welcome to bring your child to the session as well. It will take place on **Monday 21st March at 7:00pm** in the school hall.

OPAL Play afternoons with parents/carers

We are going to offer the following times and dates for parents/carers to come along to our parent and child OPAL play sessions. This will be a perfect opportunity for parents to see the developments and improvements that we are making as part of our outdoor play and learning programme. If it is wet you will need your wellies and a warm coat, but we hope that we will have some warmer weather by then!

* Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 parents on **Monday 28th March 2022** from 2:00pm-3:00pm

*Year 1 and Year 6 parents on **Wednesday 30th March 2022** from 2:00pm- 3:00pm.

*Year 5 and F2 parents on **Friday 1st April 2022** from 2:00pm- 3:00pm.



We will also provide an opportunity for you to see your child's books on this afternoon as we know that you were unable to do this at the spring term parents' evening.

Cross Country: (Year 4- Year 6)



Cross country will be taking place on Thursday 3rd March 2022 at Arrowe Park. The event starts at 4:15pm and should be completed by 5:20pm. Children do not have to stay for the presentation at the end and you are free to go once your child has completed the race. If you would like your child to attend, then you will need to take your child to and from the event. We have sent a link home to a Google form for parents to complete just to register that your child will be taking part in the event and so we can provide them with a Gayton running vest on the day of the race.

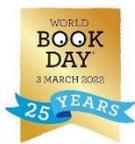
Parents can park in the Cherry Orchard car park or the Arrowe Brook car park. Please note that these car parks are pay and display.

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World Book Day- Thursday 3rd March 2022



We have sent out information to all our families, prior to the half term break, about World Book Day. We will be dedicating a whole day to activities based around the same book across the school. The book makes us think about all the potential we hold inside ourselves and encourages children to think about their hopes and dreams for the future.

Please remember that we set all our children a mini challenge for half term. The details are below as a reminder but we do need children to bring this into school on **Thursday 3rd March 2022** as part of World Book day.



Half Term Challenge linked to World Book Day (Thursday 3rd March 2022)

We would like you to think of what your hopes and dreams are for the future. Once you have decided, think of a small object that you can find, design or make that symbolises this.

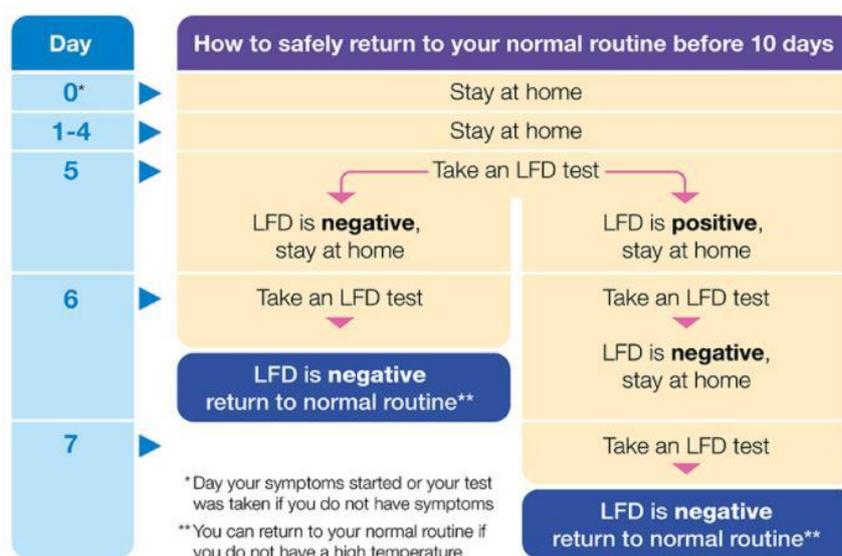
For example, you may choose a feather if you wish to become a pilot and fly. You might be able to find a Lego character that represents the job you want to do. It could be some pebbles from a beach if you wish to travel or a shell if you wish to explore the sea! You can make it as abstract as you like.

Your found or made object cannot be any larger than 5cm in any direction... we will tell you more about this on World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March so make sure you have your item in school by then!

Covid-19 updates:

As of Thursday 24th February 2022, the Government has removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. **However, adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days or until the 10th day.** This means that if your child tests positive for covid-19, they must continue to remain at home and self-isolate. The flow chart below outlines when your child can return to school following their isolation period.

How to safely return to your normal routine before 10 days



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The Christopher Salmon Poetry Competition 2022

The **Christopher Salmon Foundation**, in partnership with Wirral Libraries and Wirral Poetry Festival, presents The Christopher Salmon Foundation Poetry Competition 2022 for poems on the theme of Time for entrants aged 18 years and under, living or being educated in Wirral.

Application forms are available in your child's class. It is vital that all parents sign the form. Parents can choose to submit their own child's entry or alternatively school will submit them as long as parents have signed the entry form. You can also download a word version of the form from [here](#).

If you would like school to submit the entry, please ensure your child has returned the form by the deadline of: **Friday 25th March 2022**.

Young Artists' Summer Show



We are going to take part in the Royal Academy of Arts Summer Show. This encourages pupils to submit a piece of artwork that illustrates their creative imagination, originality and skill. Any pupil can enter from age 4- 11.

The artwork must be original and must have been completed independently without support from parents/carers etc. Although many great artists 'copy' in creative ways, they will not accept artworks that closely reproduce another artist's work or ideas or that looks like an existing artwork.

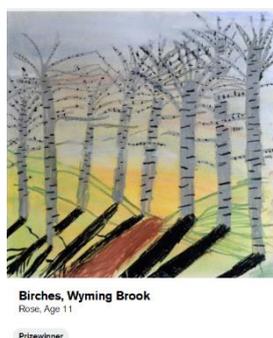
These artworks are then judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts.

If your child would like to take part, then they can look at previous examples of successful entries via this website: <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibitions/2021>

All entries must be submitted to school by **Wednesday 23rd March 2022**. This will give us time to upload the entries via our school portal in time for the deadline on Wednesday 30th March 2022.

Each submission can include a short statement to accompany the work. This statement should add context to the work and often helps the judges understand the work better. Wherever possible, the statement should be written by the artist themselves and should attempt to include information about why they created the work and what it means to them.

You can download the guidelines for submission via this link: <https://yass.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Submission-Guidelines-2022.pdf>



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PTA event:

Our PTA are currently running the 2022 challenge. Children can do it individually, as a family or as a group. There is no minimum amount needed to join in and no maximum should you raise more but this is a great way to raise money for our PTA.

It would be lovely if parents could share photographs of your progress via twitter tagging in @Gaytonprimary.



School uniform drum:

Please remember that if you have any clean school uniform to donate then please drop it off and place it in the drum (located in the entrance to school). This will then be recycled by Wirral FUS & FUPS and ensures that everyone plays their part in reducing textile landfill as well as supporting families with free uniform for Wirral primary schools.

Please remember that if parents are in need of any free second hand uniform they can request this via the website: www.wirralfuss.co.uk

Kind regards,

Mrs McAleny

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Key Dates:

Date	Event
Monday 28 th February 2022- Friday 4 th March 2022	Daily swimming lessons for Year 5 pupils from 2:30pm-3:00pm.
Thursday 3 rd March 2022	World Book Day – Activities in school all day- no costumes required.
Thursday 3 rd March 2022	Cross Country at Arrowe Park (Y4-Y6) Mrs McAleny to attend.
Monday 7 th February 2022- Friday 11 th March 2022	Daily swimming lessons for Year 5 pupils from 2:30pm-3:00pm.
Friday 11 th March 2022	Y4 trip to Chester- Romans.
Monday 14 th March 2022- Wednesday 16 th March 2022	Year 6 Robinwood Residential
Thursday 17 th March 2022	Cross country at Birkenhead Park (Y4-6) Further details to be sent home. Ms Fletcher to attend.
Monday 21 st March 2022	Y6 SATs parents' meeting at 7:00pm in the school hall.
Wednesday 23 rd March 2022	Deadline for entries for the Young Artists' Summer Show.
Friday 25 th March 2022	Deadline for school returns for Christopher Salmon Poetry competition.
Monday 28 th March 2022	OPAL Play afternoon for parents/carers (Y2, Y3 & Y4 parents) 2:00pm- 3:00pm.
Wednesday 30 th March 2022	OPAL Play afternoon for parents/carers (Y1 & Y6 parents) 2:00pm-3:00pm
Thursday 31 st March 2022	Cross Country relay at Oxton Fields. Please note that school can only enter 2 teams so children will be informed if they have been selected for this particular race.
Friday 1 st April 2022	OPAL Play afternoon for parents/carers (F2 & Y5 parents) 2:00pm-3:00pm
Friday 8 th April 2022	Break up today for spring break at 2:30pm.
Monday 25 th April 2022	Return to school following the spring break.
Monday 2 nd May 2022	Bank Holiday- School not open.
Thursday 5 th May 2022	Inset Day- School not open- School being used as a polling station.
Monday 9 th May 2022- Thursday 12 th May 2022	Year 6 SAT test week
Friday 27 th May 2022	Break up today for half term holiday.
Monday 30 th May - Friday 3 rd June 2022	Half term holiday
Monday 6 th June 2022	Children return to school

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