



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- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

### Return to school

The Prime Minister has announced that hopefully primary schools will be reopening to all pupils on March 8<sup>th</sup> 2021. The DfE have said that schools and families will have a two week notice period (prior to schools reopening) so a final decision will be made by the government in week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. As much as staff are embracing home learning, we are obviously very keen to welcome back all our pupils as soon as it is safe to do so.

Currently school continues to remain open only for the families of critical workers and vulnerable children. It is still the case that we should only be opening to parents who have no choice but to use us. If there is an adult at home, who can work from home, your child should be remaining at home. It is vital that everyone plays their part in reducing community transmission so that the pressure on the NHS can be reduced and hopefully the number of cases will continue to fall.

### Asymptomatic testing in primary school for school staff.

The government have rolled out the use of LFD (Lateral Flow Device) testing for staff in primary schools. This means that all staff can access twice weekly testing for covid-19 at home. This is to identify any asymptomatic cases of Covid-19. Many staff have already been accessing the LFD testing through the Wirral testing sites, but now will be able to do this at home. Obviously, this may mean there is slightly more disruption to staffing but we hope that this is really going to support school in identifying asymptomatic staff, who may not be aware they are transmitting the virus. The government currently have no plans to roll out LFD testing for primary school pupils.

### PTA EGM Meeting – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 7:30pm.

On Monday at 7:30pm there will be an Emergency General meeting (EGM) for the PTA. Nikki Phillips, our current chair, will be standing down from the position and we also need to fill the post of treasurer. Without these two posts being filled, the PTA will not be able to continue. 😞

Our PTA have made such a significant contribution to our school and I am so thankful to Nikki and all the other PTA members for all their energy, time and dedication. The PTA provide much needed funds to the school to enable us to provide additional resources for our children and without their fund raising efforts, we just won't be able to provide the same level of additional resources for our children. But not only do their events and activities provide much needed funds, they also provide activities and events which bring the whole community together and provide activities which promote enjoyment and fun for all our children. We know that covid-19 has meant that many events can't go ahead, but yet again the PTA have found wonderful ways to still raise money despite all the restrictions that are in place.

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I know everyone is so busy and things are particularly difficult at the moment with parents having to juggle work and home-schooling etc. But we won't be in this situation forever and things will improve. It will be desperately sad if the PTA has to fold at Gayton, so please come along to the meeting on Monday so that hopefully we can fill the two positions and manage to save the PTA.

### Children's Mental Health Week- Express yourself.

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week. We will be joining in with this across the school to ensure that all our children are aware of the importance of mental health and know how important it is to talk to people about how they are feelings and express themselves.



On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 9:00am, we will be joining in with the launch of **Children's Mental Health** week by taking part in a virtual assembly being held by Place2B, BAFTA kids and Oak National Academy. Staff will post the link in Google Classroom so that children can join in with the assembly. It will be hosted by Blue Peter's Lindsay Russell and CBBC Presenter and Place2Be Champion Rhys Stephenson.

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, we will have a school based assembly based on mental health week to launch Inside out Day that we are taking part in on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021.

**\*F2, Y1 & Y2- Assembly will be at 2:00pm**

**\*Y3-6 – Assembly will be at 2:30pm.**



On **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021** we will be taking part in **Inside out Day**. This day encourages children to wear an item clothing that is inside out. The whole idea of the Inside out day is to stress the importance of recognising that looks on the outside don't necessarily reflect how someone is feeling on the inside. Therefore it is important to always be kind and think of others. In addition to this the children will be involved in some PSHE activities based around the themes of:



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## Wirral Wave

Thingwall Primary School started off the #Wirral Wave and are going to be joining in next week and would love to see your designs.

1. Draw around your hand on paper.
2. Decorate.
3. Display your Wirral Wave
4. Take a photograph of your Wirral Wave and tweet.
5. Tag @GaytonPrimary
6. Add #Wirralwave

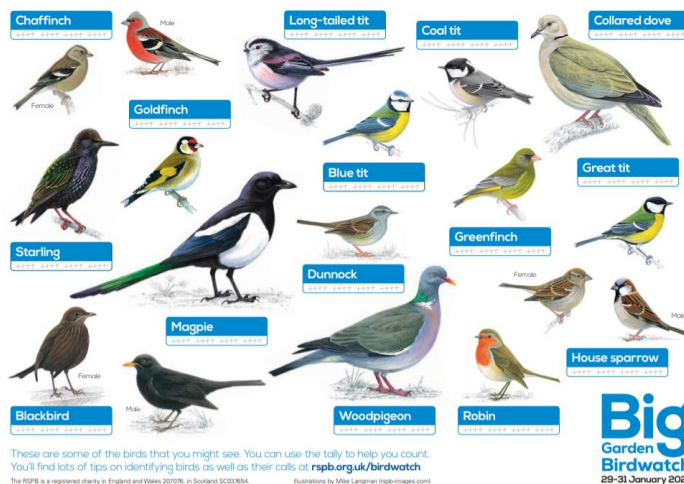
**Tell your friends to join in  
and watch the wave grow!**



The idea is that people will see the Wirral Wave spreading around the Wirral as people go out for their daily walks and see the wave displayed in family homes. Please join in and tag your Wirral wave to our Twitter page @GaytonPrimary. We will be giving time for the children to make a Wirral Wave during mental health week next week.

## Big Garden Birdwatch

This weekend children can take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch. You can choose any hour between 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> January and count the types of birds you can see in your garden (ignore any birds that are still in flight). You can do this from your window. Results can be submitted by post or online at [rsbp.org.uk/birdwatch](https://rsbp.org.uk/birdwatch). This is a useful spotter's guide available here: [Big Garden Birdwatch](https://rsbp.org.uk/birdwatch)



## Access to devices:

We have provided a number of families with some of our older laptops. They are not wonderful but will enable your child to access Google Classroom and the class Google Meet sessions. Devices have been given out based on information that was submitted from the remote learning survey. If you are still struggling with devices, please contact the school office as we still have a few laptops that we can loan out to families.



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### Remote learning survey:



Many thanks to all our parents who provided feedback from the F2 and Y1-Y6 remote learning survey. The survey is overwhelmingly positive and we are so pleased to hear that parents feel that what we have put in place is supporting parents with remote learning at home. We will provide an overview of the feedback to parents over the next few weeks and are looking at further ways in which we can improve our remote learning. This week, staff have started experimenting with mote which allows us to give voice feedback to pupils. This will be particularly useful with our younger pupils, who understandably struggle more to understand and interpret written feedback.

### Staying safe online:



With children now spending so much more time online, it is more important than ever for us to keep talking to them about how they can stay safe and use the technology available to them in a positive and healthy way.

Please follow these links we have shared on previous newsletters so you are best informed about the apps and platforms your children are accessing;

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

### End of half term:

School will close on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021** at the usual time for the half term break. School will not be open to the families of critical workers during this week.

Stay safe and well.

Thank you for your continued support,

Kind regards,

Mrs McAleny



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**Key Dates:**

Date	Event
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2021 @7:30pm	PTA meeting EGM @7:30am.
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> February- Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Children's Mental Health Week.
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2021	Children's Mental Health Assembly launch at 9:00am- link will be shared in Google Classroom for Years 1-6.
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021	Mental Health Assembly with Mrs McAleny 2:00pm- F2, Y1 & Y2 2:30pm- Y3-6.
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2021	Inside out Day- Children can wear an item out of clothing inside out either in school or at home.
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2021 @2:00pm- 3:00pm	Family Wellbeing session 3 (Thumbs up) A zoom link will be sent to parents for you to access the session.
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Safer Internet Day
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	School breaks up for half term.
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021	School reopens following the half term break for the families of critical workers and vulnerable children.

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