



G A Y T O N P R I M A R Y S C H O O L
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May 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parents & Carers,

Well what a busy half term we have had! Read on to share our excitement so far this term.

Superheroes to the Rescue! (Year 1)

Recently, Year 1 have been experiencing fantasy stories within the English curriculum. Part of this learning was sharing their favourite, well-known superheroes, with a specific focus on their super powers. With this in mind, and with the creative juices flowing, the children designed their own character with their own very special powers! The children even wrote their own comic strips, which included their arch nemesis. To celebrate and support that learning, they had a superhero day where every child (and even Mrs Dinsdale) came to school dressed as their alter ego...the costumes were amazing! On the day, our Year 1 superheroes used their powers to have a successful maths lesson where they practised their division skills by sharing masks and capes – the best accessory of every true hero. They even used their powers to read alien words in phonics. The children had a brilliant day, and Gayton was safe from any danger!



Rangers came for a visit!

On 7th May, the rangers from Chester Zoo came for a visit. We were fortunate that they were able to visit every class and share some amazing experiences with the children. Some of our younger children investigated mini-beasts, expanding their knowledge about the life around us, whereas our Year 4's had the opportunity to find out so much more about the plants and animals that call the rainforest their home. Some of the older classes

participated in a workshop called 'Talking Rubbish', this was an excellent introduction to our Coast to Country project as they learned about how long it takes different manmade materials to decompose.

Wild Experiences at Tatton Park (Year 3)

Earlier in the month, Year 3 went to Tatton Park as part of their topic about Vikings and Saxons. The trip involved learning how a shield wall worked, what they would have eaten, tools they would have used and materials such as fur, leather, iron, antler and bone. They were also taught about what animals they would have hunted and crops they would have grown. The children thoroughly enjoyed the hands on experience and were full of new facts once they returned to school.



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Competition time (Year 5)

Two teams from our Year 5 class went to Wirral Grammar School to represent Gayton Primary at the Maths Challenge event. The children showed great skill, determination, and above all, teamwork, working hard to solve a variety of maths challenges which really tested their mathematical knowledge. They did themselves and Gayton proud with our teams coming in 6th and 2nd position. Well done!

It has been a 'testing' month for some!

May is a busy national testing month in schools across the country. I'd like to say a huge well done to our Year 2's and Year 6's who have faced them with positivity and determination; each child striving to do their absolute best – what more can we ask for?

Sunny days!

We love our sunny days at Gayton, and this week has seen us up on the field enjoying our lunch times. Many of the children have taken their packed lunch up to enjoy a friendly picnic and others have been loving the activity areas. Thanks to Mrs Fletcher for setting up a range activities, such as: dodgeball, tennis and football. Thank you to our Midday Assistants for encouraging the children to get involved and for also reminding them about treating our field with respect and not to leave rubbish where it doesn't belong.

It is important to remind our families that with summer sun comes the sun care reminder. Children should be coming to school with:

- Long-lasting sun cream already applied
- A hat
- A water bottle (which can be refilled at breaks)



Staffing Update

I am sad to say that Mrs Dinsdale, one of our Year 1 teachers, will be leaving us at the end of this school year. She has planned to spend some quality time with her family while she embarks on a change of career as a child minder. Mrs Parker (the other half of our dynamic duo of teachers in Year 1) will be staying with us next year as one of our a trusted supply teachers.

I, along with the Governors and the rest of the Senior Leadership team, have been working hard to find our new, Year 1 teacher for September. We were inundated with applications and we are proud to say that we have appointed Miss Nederlof. Miss Nederlof is currently based in Cheshire West at Whitby Heath Primary School where she has worked for a number of years, presently as a Year 1 teacher. We are also excited to welcome our new Year 6 teacher for September, Anna Jones who joins us from..... where she has worked for a number of years.

We look forward to welcoming both teachers to Gayton as part of the transition preparations for our current Foundation 2 and Year 5 pupils.

New School Website

With some financial support from the PTA, we will soon have a new school website. You will have received an email this week asking for your thoughts. In order for our website to be the best that it can be, I have asked you to complete a very short questionnaire to help ensure it has the correct content and ease of use you are all hoping for. Thank you to all of you who have completed it already.

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Coast to Country Project

As you will be aware, this summer term we are participating in an exciting project called 'Coast to Country'. All 19 Deeside schools agreed that the aims of this project are to: Inspire our whole school community to be 'A PART' of our world.

Values:

- APPRECIATE the world around us, our role as guardians of this planet, the beauty of our local area.
- PROTECT the local environment, the animals around the world who need our help, future generations.
- AWARENESS raised across our local communities to enact real and lasting change.
- RESPONSIBILITY to help meet our global goals, to care for our world, to help the environment.
- TOGETHER as a school, as a community, as global citizens.

As part of this project, the children have been considering what we all, as a community, can do to help the world around us. Our gardening clubs have been making a positive impact on our school environment with all of the additional planting they have done with the help of two of our teachers, Mrs Such and Mrs Roe, and also Miss Edwards, one of our parents and Midday Assistants who is committed to our eco mission and supports us moving forward with this vital work.

I recently shared with the staff a message that has stuck with me...

“Changing the philosophy of cultures and societies starts with individuals changing their own hearts and minds. It’s not that composting will empty the landfills of waste, but a changed mind and heart may influence others and that could spread and change the world!”

It is this message that the children are beginning to take on board – a changed mind and heart CAN change and influence others for the better!

With this in mind, a few of the older children has questioned why some car drivers, even some outside of our own school gates, are leaving their engines on when waiting. They were amazed that some were making this choice, especially as they have discovered that it is against the law. Rule 123 in the Highway Code states:

You **MUST NOT** leave a parked vehicle unattended with the engine running or leave a vehicle engine running unnecessarily while that vehicle is stationary on a public road. Generally, if the vehicle is stationary and is likely to remain so for more than a couple of minutes, you should apply the parking brake and switch off the engine to reduce emissions and noise pollution. However it is permissible to leave the engine running if the vehicle is stationary in traffic or for diagnosing faults.

They want to raise people’s awareness of this law and challenge us all to turn off our engines when stopped. Hopefully we can all rise to this challenge and help save the environment, whilst also saving some money – did you know you could be fined for this?

Clubs:

Monday

Judo @ 8am (Y1 – Y6)
Gardening Club @ 12:30pm – 1:30pm (F2 – Y6)
Hip-Hop @ 3:30pm – 4:20pm (F2 – Y3)

Tuesday

Fencing @ 8:00am (Y3 – Y6)
Dodgeball @ 3:30pm – 4:30pm (Y1 – Y3)
Gardening Club @ 3:30pm – 4:15pm (F2 – Y6)

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Wednesday Zumba @ 3:30pm – 4:30pm (Y3 – Y6)
Thursday Multi-sports @ 3:30pm – 4:30pm (F2 – Y6)
Friday Boxercise @ 8am (Y3 – Y6)
Scratch Club @ 12:30pm – 1:15pm (Y5 & 6)

Updates and Reminders:

Thursday 23rd May we are closed due to the European Elections

Residential Trips:

Year 4 – Burwardsley Outdoor Education Centre
Year 5 – Oaklands Outdoor Education Centre
Year 6 – Llanberis YHA

Wednesday 19th – Friday 21st June 2019
Wednesday 22nd – Friday 24th June 2019
Tuesday 4th – Friday 7th June 2019

Important Dates:

F2 Medieval Day: 22nd May
School enforced closure for polling: 23rd May
Break up for half term: Friday 24th May
Phonics screening tests for KS1: Monday 10th June and Tuesday 11th June.
Dodd Cup Football Competition: Friday 14th June
Summer Fair: Saturday 5th June
Infants trip to the Philharmonic: Thursday 20th June
Sports Day: Thursday 27th June (PM)
Whole School Litter Pick: Friday 28th June
Y6 Induction Day: Wednesday 10th July
Federation Music Festival: Thursday 11th July (7-8:30pm)
Reports to Parents: Friday 12th July
Chirk Castle Trip for F2: Wednesday 17th July

Inset Day – Staff Only Day

Monday 3rd June 2019. Pupils return on Tuesday 4th June.

Yours Sincerely,



Mrs Emma Johnson
Interim Headteacher

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