



G A Y T O N P R I M A R Y S C H O O L
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Newsletter 9- Tuesday 19th January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

Unfortunately, my wish for the spring term to bring more normality for the whole school community was dashed very quickly with the announcement of the national lockdown and the closure of schools to most pupils effective from the 5th of January 2021.



We are desperately sorry that we can't have all our pupils in school at the moment, but we have to work together as a community to try and reduce the transmission of the virus and reduce social contacts. The message from the Government is very clear- **STAY AT HOME.**

Thank you to those parents who are critical workers, but are able to keep their children at home as they are working from home. If you can keep your child at home, then you should. The more children we have in school, the greater the risk to us all. By limiting the number of children in school, it means we will be suppressing the infection, supporting the NHS and protecting our community. Places in school should only be accessed by critical workers who have no choice but to attend their work place in order to support the covid-19 response. School should remain open for those children **who absolutely need to attend.**

We remain hopeful that the lockdown will end at half term and we will be able to welcome all our pupils back to school, but obviously we are awaiting further confirmation from the Government.

Remote/blended learning



Many thanks to everyone for their support since we have been implementing our full remote learning offer. We have received so many positive and encouraging messages from parents and these have helped enormously to keep the staff going. This is all completely new to our staff and they are adapting and refining things as quickly as they can. It really has been wonderful to be able to see the children at home, interacting with the staff and children in school on a daily basis and we know that this is helping to improve levels of engagement and connection. The staff are working so hard to try and resolve any technical issues and every day we learn new things which will hopefully help us to make improvements.

We launched a survey for Y1-Y6 parents last Friday and this will remain available for parents to complete until Wednesday 20th January at 5:00pm. This can be completed by clicking on the following link:

<https://forms.gle/cip3efkVPYvYGGkq7>

We will be surveying our F2 parents next Friday (22nd January 2021) to find out your views about the learning that is being provided by Tapestry. Mrs Such will be also offering three live phonics lessons this week. These are taking place at 9:30am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 2021. She will be running story time on Tuesday at 2:45pm and Friday at 2:45pm.

Headteacher: Mrs McAleny

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Remote learning plan:

This week, we will be sending our remote learning plan out to parents. This outlines expectations for a whole range of situations in relation to covid-19 when remote or blended learning may be required. This plan is in line with the DfE expectations and ensures that we are meeting all of the recommendations as outlined by the DfE. This plan will also be available on our website.

Access to devices:



We are very aware that some families may be struggling as you may not have enough devices in your household for remote learning. If this is the case, please fill in the remote learning questionnaire and we will do everything we can to support you. Unfortunately, we have only received 2 devices from the Government's device offer but we do have a small number of older laptops in school which we are having wiped and then these can be made available for parents. They may be a little slow, but they should work for accessing Google Classroom and for children to attend Google Meet sessions etc. These devices will obviously be prioritised to families who are not accessing school at the current time.

Celebration assembly:

Unfortunately, on Friday we exceeded our Google Meet limit as we had more than 100 people trying to access the assembly. We are therefore going to be hosting two assemblies in future on a Friday to ensure that everyone can attend.



F2, Y1 & Y2 assembly will take place at 2:00pm and KS2 (Y3-Y6) will take place at 1:30pm.

We appreciate that this may cause further inconvenience for parents, but we need to be able to offer the assembly to everyone who would like to attend. Please can I ask that if you have children of the same key stage accessing the assembly, please could they access via the same device as this will help to prevent the issue of too many people accessing the assembly.

Google Classroom:



Parents are able to privately message class teachers via Google classroom. Please can I politely ask that parents do not contact teachers outside of working hours. Any messages that are sent outside of 9:00am- 5:00pm, will not be responded to until the next working day. All staff are in full time at the moment as we are unable to operate rota systems, this means that staff have very limited time and the implementation of remote/blended learning has significantly increased the workload of all staff. Google Classroom is a wonderful learning tool and we are so pleased that we have it to support in facilitating with online learning but it is important that staff are able to switch off and not feel the need to respond to messages from parents outside of working hours. Your support and cooperation with this would be very much appreciated.

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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/>

Statutory Assessments:

Just to inform all parents that the Government have cancelled all statutory assessments for this year. This means that Year 6 will not be taking their Year 6 SATs in May, Year 2 SATS will also not be taking place and the Y1 phonics screening has also been cancelled for this year.

Thumbs up Family Wellbeing sessions

As previously advertised, Thumbs up will be providing 3 family wellbeing sessions on the following dates:



- **Wednesday 20th January 2021 – 2:00pm-3:00pm**
- **Wednesday 27th January 2021- 2:00pm-3:00pm**
- **Wednesday 3rd February 2021- 2:00pm-3:00pm**

We will send out the Zoom link to parents via email before the sessions take place. If you can join the session, with your child/ren, please do but equally we know that this may not be possible due to the huge pressures families are facing at this time.

End of half term:

School will close on **Friday 12th February 2021** at the usual time for the half term break. We hope that we will be opening to all pupils on Monday 22nd February 2021, however we are waiting further announcements from the Government regarding this.

During these times, it can be very hard to remain positive and we know that many families are facing huge challenges at the moment. It is important to remember that everyone's circumstances are different and all families will face different challenges during the lockdown period. Over these coming days and weeks we are here if you need us, please do not hesitate to make contact. If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher, please contact the school office and staff will get back to you as soon as they can.

Stay safe and well.

Thank you for your continued support,

Kind regards,

Mrs McAleny



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Key Dates:

Date	Event
Wednesday 20 th January 2021 @2:00pm-3:00pm	Family Wellbeing session 1 (Thumbs up) A zoom link will be sent to parents for you to access the session.
Wednesday 20 th January 2021 @5:00pm	Closing date for remote learning survey for Y1-Y6 parents.
Friday 22 nd January 2021	Launch of remote learning survey for F2 parents.
Wednesday 27 th January 2021	Closing date for remote learning survey for F2 parents.
Tuesday 26 th January 2021 @6:00pm	Full Governors' meeting.
Wednesday 27 th January 2021 @2:00pm-3:00pm	Family Wellbeing session 2 (Thumbs up) A zoom link will be sent to parents for you to access the session.
Monday 1 st February 2021 @7:30pm	PTA meeting EGM @7:30am.
Monday 1 st February- Friday 5 th February 2021	Children's Mental Health Week.
Wednesday 3 rd 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.
Friday 12 th February 2021	School breaks up for half term.
Monday 22 nd February 2021	School reopens following the half term break.

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