



G A Y T O N P R I M A R Y S C H O O L
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Newsletter 1- 09.09.2020

Dear Parents & Carers,



Welcome back!

Well it has been a wonderful start to the autumn term being able to welcome back all our children. The children have returned ready to learn and are happy and settled back in the school environment. Thank you so much to all our parents/carers for supporting school by reading the guidance that has been sent out and knowing when and where to pick up/drop off your child from school. It will still take us time to embed all our structures and routines but all the children have made an excellent start back to the new academic year and it has been wonderful to be able to walk around and see all the classrooms full of happy and hardworking children! School is a bit different at the moment but all the staff are working so hard to try and make your child's experience as 'normal' as possible at the current time.

Welcome to all our new parents:

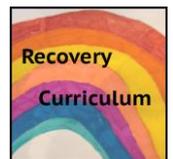
A very warm welcome to all our new F2 parents. We are very proud of all our F2 children this year. They haven't been able to have the same transition experiences as would have been offered previously and yet they have all settled in incredibly well.

New staff:

We are delighted to welcome to our team Mr McColgan who is our new school caretaker. Mrs Bojtler has also joined us a full time teaching assistant in F2.

Recovery curriculum:

On our return to school, staff are prioritising the welfare, well-being and emotional health of all our pupils. We recognise that all children will have had different experiences of lockdown and we want to help them make sense of what they have been through whilst at the same time, supporting them with their return to school. Our children will be engaged in a wide range of PSHE lessons which will focus on the following elements:



- Relationships
- Community
- Consolidation
- Metacognition (understanding our thought processes and why we feel like we feel)
- Space- focusing on reconnection.

At the same time, we have reviewed our curriculum to ensure that staff are aware of the gaps that may need to be filled with some of our children. For the first 3-4 weeks all staff are delivering a catch up curriculum in English.

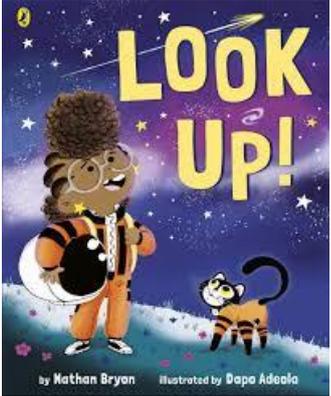
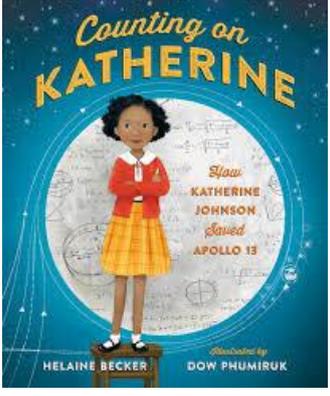
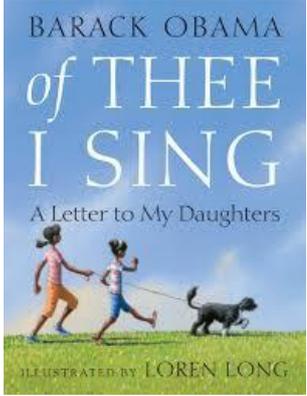
Headteacher: Mrs McAleny

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For English all the children will be engaged in a unit of work which will recap the basic key skills from their previous year group and will provide an opportunity to apply these skills across a range of short writing tasks. The theme of the texts are **'Keep Believing'** with a range of texts celebrating the achievement of inspirational people in response to Black Lives Matter.

English Catch up

Year 1 & 2	Year 3 & 4	Year 5 & 6
		

In Maths, we follow the White Rose Maths scheme and specific units have been added to reinforce key objectives from the last academic year. Staff will be constantly assessing the pupils on a daily basis in order to ascertain aspects/key concepts which they might need to revisit and will naturally alter their teaching in response to this.

Secondary School admissions information (Year 6 parents)

Due to coronavirus, the dates of the 11+ have now changed. We have been informed that all parents who have registered their child for the tests have been emailed directly to notify them of these changes. These tests will now take place on 22nd/23rd October. Also, we have emailed all Y6 parents the secondary admissions powerpoint with the arrangements for secondary school admissions for this year.

PTA Update:



Our PTA raised a significant amount of money last year amounting to **£17,000!** This is a truly amazing amount especially when the school went into lockdown in March. This money has resulted in school being able to purchase a whole range of resources to support the children with their learning. This really is a wonderful achievement and has made such a difference to all our children in school. I would like to personally say a very big thank you to the committee for their excellent fundraising efforts and to all our parents who supported the events during last year.

However, this year all of the committee have taken the decision that they wish to stand down due to personal circumstances. Therefore we currently have vacancies for the following roles:

- *Chair*
- *Vice Chair*
- *Treasurer*

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- *Secretary*
- *Communications officer*

In order for the PTA to continue running (albeit in a slightly different way this year, due to COVID-19 restrictions) it is vital that we do manage to fill the positions and form a new committee. Our children benefit directly from all the money that is raised and due to reducing school budgets this money really is critical at this time. Therefore I would encourage anyone who has an interest to please contact our school office or email gaytonprimarypta@gmail.com. Support would be available from the existing members of the committee and the more people that express an interest the less work it would be for everyone. The PTA will be holding their AGM on **Monday 12th October at 7:45pm**. It really is vital that we somehow continue the wonderful work of the PTA as we move into this new academic year so if you are interested please make contact.

F2 Classroom:

Over the summer period we have refurbished our F2 classroom with brand new furniture. Mrs Such and Miss Spearing have worked so hard to set up the new F2 classroom and it is looking wonderful! Our F2 children are thoroughly enjoying playing in the different areas of the classroom.



Hot water taps (KS2)

Over the summer period we have installed hot water taps in our Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 classrooms. These classrooms previously did not have access to hot water. It now means that every classroom in school has access to hot water which is helping in ensuring we have more access to sink areas to support in the children washing their hands regularly throughout the school day.

Homework:

Homework will commence on **Friday 18th September**. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, schools are being encouraged to reduce the amount of things that are coming in and out of school on a regular basis. Therefore we will be mainly using Google Classroom for the completion of homework in Years 1-6. Further information regarding this will be sent home to all parents in due course.



Travel to and from school

Please can I remind all parents that parents should be parking considerately when dropping off or picking up your child from school. Parents should not be parking on double yellow lines and need to be considerate to local residents' drive ways etc.

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Where possible, we would encourage as many parents as possible to walk their child to school or to encourage cycling.



Reminders:

Water bottles- Please ensure your child has a labelled water bottle in school every day. Our water fountains are still turned off so can't be accessed in the school day so it is vital that your child does have one in school every day.

PE kits- You will have received a message with the days that your child can come into school wearing their PE kit.

A reminder of these days is shown below:

Year Group	Days of the week
F2	Monday & Friday
Y1	Tuesday & Thursday
Y2	Wednesday & Thursday
Y3	Wednesday & Thursday
Y4	Monday & Wednesday
Y5	Monday & Tuesday
Y6	Tuesday & Friday

Clothing- Please ensuring all clothing especially coats and jumpers are labelled. Staff are trying really hard to reunite children with lost items but this is very difficult when name labels are not provided and makes the job impossible for us.

Coats: Please ensure your child brings a coat to school every day. The weather can change significantly throughout the school day so it is vital that a coat is provided.

Coronavirus updates:

The guidelines from the Government are constantly changing with regards to coronavirus. Therefore, I will aim to update parents at regular intervals.

The Department for Education has worked closely with Public Health England (PHE) and NHS Test and Trace to ensure that we are doing all we can to minimise the potential risks of spread. A key part of this is recognising the correct symptoms.

Children should be tested in the following circumstances:

- **If they develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms: a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell; or**
- **If they are recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse).**

Therefore, if your child is displaying any of the symptoms above it is vital that they do not attend school and that you arrange a test for your child. Tests can be arranged via the NHS Website or by calling 119. They will be able to tell you where testing is taking place in the local area.

Your child can return to school if the result is negative, provided they feel well and they have not had a fever for 48 hours.

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If your child tests positive, it is vital that you contact school in order to inform us of this.

If your child is a known contact of a confirmed case they must stay off school for the 14 day isolation period, even if they test negative. This is because they can develop the infection at any point up to day 14 (the incubation period for COVID-19), so if a child tests negative on day 3 they may still go on to develop the infection. This means that if your child is identified as a contact through Test and Trace they will not be able to return to school even if they have a negative test result and will have to remain in isolation for 14 days.

I appreciate that the situation at the moment is challenging for everyone, but I am asking for everyone's support in following the guidelines so that we can ensure the safety of all our children and my staff.

Wirral's infection rate is rising and it is vital that the whole community works together to prevent a localised lockdown from occurring. Therefore please ensure that you follow the guidelines outlined above.

If we are concerned about your child and they appear to be displaying any of the symptoms, we will contact you and ask you to collect your child from school. We don't routinely take the temperatures of children in school but if we have concerns about your child we will do this.

Thank you again for your patience and continued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs McAleny

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