

Gayton Primary School

FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers

The term has flown by so far and we find ourselves only two weeks away from Half Term!

World Book Day - Thursday 7th March

As a small tribute to Lucy Moroney, we are planning to develop activities based around Lucy's beautiful 'Spider and the Whale' book during the week of World Book Day. You may be slightly relieved to know that we won't be asking you to find costumes for this one! (although the School Council are pushing hard for a PJ day – we'll let you know when this is!).

Science under the Stars

We hope everyone that managed to go along to the Science under the Stars event at Heswall Primary School enjoyed everything on offer and had a chance to see the giant storybook that our Y5/6 Eco warriors, along with our partner schools, contributed to. A filmed version of it is on our school website; follow the link below to access this: <https://vimeo.com/312747788>

Parent-teacher meetings – Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th February

If you have not been able to sign up for an appointment with your child's teacher yet, please do so as a matter of urgency. Speak to the office staff if you need to find out current availability of appointments.

Safeguarding

The Y1-2 children are now being released to parents/carers one at a time to ensure a safe and orderly exit from school. Please be patient if this takes longer than normal to let the children go!

I would like to re-emphasise the need for children to come on to the playground in the morning on their own, as mentioned in the last newsletter. This ensures the safeguarding of all the children and allows the classes to enter school ready to start the day. If children are reluctant to leave parents, the member of staff on gate duty will either ask buddies to take younger children to their line or will take them across when they can. We have also asked Pre-school if a member of staff can be on gate duty from 8.50am to receive pre-school children. Those of you with children attending pre-school are therefore asked not to take the children across while the main school children are still coming into school in the morning.

We have noticed a number of children being late to school recently, with some being 'repeat offenders'. Please call us if your child is likely to be late - we will be looking at attendance of children that are repeatedly arriving after 8.50am. Can I also remind parents that any children arriving after 8am for before-school clubs need to be escorted by an adult around to the S4YC classroom to enter the building.

Sport

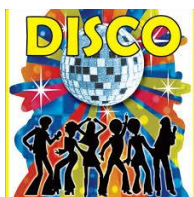
Our next Y4-6 cross-country race is on Thursday 28th February at Arrowe Park; practices take place during Wednesday breaktimes and are open to any Y4-6 children that want to participate.

Lost Property

We have a huge amount of lost property in the entrance area at the moment, PE kits, sweatshirts and jumpers and a wide range of other lost items! Please do come in to check if any of this belongs to your child. Please also check that your child's name is still visible in their school clothing, in case it is misplaced in school.



Gayton Parent Teacher Association



Upcoming events include:

Children's discos on Thursday 7th February (5pm Infants, 6.15pm Juniors)

Adults Quiz evening on Friday 8th February (7.30pm onwards)

A non-uniform day on Friday 15th February (just before Half term) in return for a minimum £1 donation. The PTA will also run a cake and biscuit tuck shop after school that day.

Adults Bingo evening on Friday 8th March

Please do come along to the adults-only events to support the school and enjoy these fun social evenings with friends old and new!

The next PTA meeting takes place on Monday 25th February at 7.15pm.

We are extremely grateful that the PTA has funded a substantial purchase (almost £3000) of reading books for our Infant children – these are being classified and should be going out with the children very soon for their enjoyment. We are in the process of ordering a permanent outdoor shelter/teaching area for the field and we have tentative plans for an additional outdoor teaching space...we'll keep you informed of progress towards this one! We could not do this without your generosity and we would like to thank all of you for continuing to support us in trying to provide the best possible facilities for the children.

Staff news

The Summer term interim Headteacher vacancy has been advertised and the appointment process is ongoing at the moment. We hope that we will be able to share further news with you by Half term. The permanent position has also been advertised and it is hoped that this process will be finalised by the end of the Spring term.

We are sad to tell you that Mrs Morley (Year Four teacher) has decided to take retirement with effect from 30th April 2019. Mrs Morley has taught at Gayton Primary School for almost 20 years and she will be missed by all of us at school. Miss Sothern will be taking Y4 for four days a week for the remainder of the Summer term, with Mrs Dool taking most of the Mondays (Mrs Parker will take Y4 for the remaining one or two Mondays). The permanent arrangements for the 0.5 Year Four role from September will be publicised early in the Summer term.

We are pleased to welcome Hayley Paul to our Midday team. At the moment, we still have a vacancy for Tuesday lunchtimes; if anyone could commit to this, please do come and speak to me about this role.

Other news

Our Y1-6 children recently received pen pal letters from the community school that we linked with in Gitendri, Uganda. We will be hosting a certificate presentation from the DRIP charity on 15th February as thanks for the children's efforts.

Y4 will be working with the artist Ian Fennelly on Tuesday 5th February.

Our computing provider Hi Impact will lead workshops with Y6 on data logging in Science on Thursday 28th February.

For Y6 parents, please remember that secondary allocation day is Friday 1st March.

We break up at 3.20/3.25pm as usual on the last day of this Half Term (15th February). The children return on Monday 25th February.

Yours sincerely

Mark Whitehill Headteacher