



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 8- 5.11.19

Dear Parents & Carers,

A very warm welcome back to everyone following the half term holiday! We certainly had a very busy first half term and are looking forward to an equally busy (possibly busier) second half term!

School Improvement:



I just wanted to provide an overview of some of the things that we have been working on in the last half term so that parents are aware of some of the key school improvement aspects. This is not a definitive list but provides a snapshot of some of the things that we have been developing:

- Reviewing the teaching of guided reading across the school to ensure consistency with regards to the structure and implementation.
- Training for teaching staff with regards to providing high quality guided reading sessions.
- Monitoring the quality of writing that is being completed across the school and ensuring that staff are utilising high quality model texts.
- Miss Nederlof had the opportunity to attend a phonics course specifically focusing on supporting Y1 children with passing the phonics screening test.
- Introduction of 'magpie' books to facilitate developing children's vocabulary across Years 2-6.
- Implementing and embedding a new handwriting scheme across the school and launching home access as part of this.
- Introduction of a presentation policy across the school to ensure high expectations with regards to presentation and the quality of work that children are producing.
- Introduction of an electronic system for recording safeguarding & pastoral/behavioural aspects. Ensuring that appropriate information is recorded and shared with the key people in school.
- Introduction of 'Picture News' from Years 1- 6 to enable pupils to debate national and global issues and to further embed the teaching of British values.
- Curriculum development- Mrs Hulley, Mrs Such and Miss Nederlof have all had the opportunity to work alongside a consultant to start thinking about how we are going to start re-designing our new curriculum to meet the needs of all the children at Gayton. This will be a significant aspect of school development over the next year, and beyond, as we focus on ensuring that we build a curriculum which is coherently planned and progressive with regards to knowledge and skill development.

Parents' Evening:

Many thanks to everyone for coming along to parents' evening. We have been delighted to have received so much positive feedback over the two days from parents. We hope you found your appointment(s) beneficial and feel that you were provided with useful information regarding how your child has settled into their new class. If you were not able to attend parents' evening, please can you contact the office to make an appointment with your child's class teacher as it is important that all families do get to speak to their child's class teacher.



Headteacher: Mrs McAleny

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Cake Sale:

Huge thanks to the parents of Y2, 3 & 4 for sending in cakes for the cake sale. Your generosity has meant that we have been able to run the cake sale over 2 days. The School Council are delighted that we didn't ask for everyone to bring cakes as otherwise they think there would have been too many! Any cakes left over today, will be used at the PTA disco. The money raised from the cake sale is being donated to the RSPCA (chosen by the School Council).

Elf School:

Wow! Yesterday saw the start of our Elf School which is running for another 3 weeks (prior to the Christmas Fair). Huge thanks to the PTA for organising this event and to the school staff who supported as well. This was a truly special event which really captured the children's imaginations and creative skills and certainly has got everyone feeling a little Christmassy (even though it is the start of November). I am sure that the next three sessions will be equally as magical! Please remember that if you want your child to attend Elf school, it is vital that you have booked them on via Parent Pay!



PTA meeting:

There will be PTA meeting on **Monday 11th November at 7:15pm** at school. Please do come along if you are able to do so and find out about ways in which you can help the PTA to raise money for school.

Monster Ball 'Halloween Disco'

We are looking forward to seeing all the children dressed up in their spooky costumes for the Halloween disco on Wednesday 6th November 2019 from 5:00pm-6:15pm. If you would like your child to attend please make your payment via Parent Pay.



Eco-team fundraising idea.

Reminder: We would like all our children to come to school on **Friday 8th November 2019** wearing their eco-headband. This headband can feature plants or animals. Please remember to send your child in with a small donation (20p-50p) for the snowdrop fund which the eco councillors will come and collect.



We can't wait to see all the creative designs! And remember please don't buy one as we don't want to create more waste packaging.

F2 Reading workshop sessions for parents- Tuesday 12th November 2019

Mrs Such and Miss Spearing will be holding a session for F2 parents on **Tuesday 12th November at 6:00pm**. For this session we would like you to bring your child in with you. For the first part of the meeting the children will have a story read to them by Miss Spearing, as Mrs Such will give a brief insight into the reading process to parents. Parents will then be able to work with their child on some of the activities set up in the hall.

Reading information sessions for Y1- Y6 parents:



There will be a reading information session for parents of Y1- Y6 children on **Wednesday 13th November 2019**. The session will start in the hall at 6:00pm where I will give a short update to parents regarding our school development plan in relation to reading. Then class teachers will lead a presentation based on supporting parents in further understanding how reading is taught across the school. Children are welcome to attend this session but we will expect them to remain with you during this time. They might like to bring their reading book with them to keep them occupied whilst listening to the presentations!

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Anti- Bullying week 'Change starts with us'



Next week is anti-bullying week. Across school, the children will be participating in a range of activities to raise the profile of anti-bullying and will be learning about how everyone can make a difference. I am delighted to announce that our Y5 children have been invited to attend an anti-bullying conference on Monday 11th November and they will be performing a short play in front of all the other schools who are attending. This play is being led completely by the Y5 children (with a little bit of guidance from Mrs Hulley) and will make the audience really consider what bullying actually is.

As part of Anti-bullying week, we will be supporting **Odd Sock day on 12th November** and would like everyone to come to school wearing odd socks! It's an opportunity for children to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!

Poppy Appeal

We now have the Poppy appeal box in school and pupils can bring money into school to buy items. We have one box of merchandise and one box of Poppies to sell and help raise money for the Royal British Legion. Our school council representatives will be selling these at break time on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week. There are suggested prices for the merchandise:

Slap band- £1.50, Wristband- £1.00, Reflector- 50p and Zip Pulls 50p.



Children can also purchase a paper poppy for a small donation.

Volunteers in school:



Our volunteer procedures have been updated to ensure the highest standards of safeguarding for all our pupils. We will now be seeking two references for all our regular volunteers as well as completing a DBS check. This is recommended as good practice with regards to safeguarding. As part of this, we will also be requesting that all volunteers read some key safeguarding documents (prior to commencing) to ensure that they are fully aware of safeguarding responsibilities when working alongside children. These will be emailed to you and then parents will need to sign to record that they have read them. These procedures will apply to all volunteers who help out regularly within school. If you are interested in volunteering in school, please do contact the school office as your help and time is very much appreciated!

General Election- School closure

As previously shared via Eschools, please remember that school will be closed on Thursday 12th December 2019 due to the school being used as a polling station for the General Election. Many apologies for any inconvenience caused on this day. Our F2 and KS1 nativity performance has been moved to the evening of Wednesday 11th December at 6:00pm.

Rotary Shoe Boxes – Spread a little happiness! Many thanks to all the families who have taken part in the Rotary Shoe box scheme. Boxes can still be purchased from the office for £2.00 which covers the transport cost. The boxes need to be filled and returned to school by this **Friday 8th November 2019**.



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Key Dates for this half term:

Date	Event
Wednesday 6 th November 2019	Monster Ball 'Halloween Disco' – 5:00pm-6:15pm (Tickets available through Parent Pay)
Monday 11 th November 2019	PTA meeting at 7:15pm at school.
11 th November- 15 th November	Anti-bullying week- 'Change starts with us'
Monday 11 th November 2019	Year 5 to attend an anti-bullying conference at WoodChurch High School.
Tuesday 12 th November 2019	Odd Sock Day- Children to wear odd socks to school as part of our anti-bullying week.
Tuesday 12 th November 2019	F2 Reading workshop session for parents at 6:00pm- children should attend this event.
Tuesday 12 th November 2019	Sports Hall Athletics Event (Y5 & 6 team) at Bebington 4:00pm-6:00pm.
Wednesday 13 th November 2019	Y1-Y6 Reading workshop session for parents at 6:00pm. Presentation in the hall from Mrs McAleny regarding reading updates from the school development plan followed by a session with class teachers based on how reading is taught at Gayton.
Thursday 14 th November 2019	New intake (2020-2021) tour of school at 9:15am. Please book via the school office.
Friday 15 th November 2019	Children in Need Day- Children can wear their own clothes or something Pudsey related in return for a £1.00 minimum donation to Children to Need.
Tuesday 19 th November 2019	Film Club (3:30pm-5:15pm) Toy Story 4.
Wednesday 20 th November 2019	Sports Hall Athletics Event at Gayton (Y5 & 6) St Peter's school visiting (4:00pm- 5:00pm)
Thursday 21 st November 2019	Christingle Service for Y3 pupils who are performing at the Church of the Good Shepherd.
Friday 22 nd November 2019	Donations for the Christmas fair in return for children wearing their own clothes to school.
Tuesday 26 th November 2019	New intake (2020-2021) tour at 1:30pm. Please book via the school office.
Thursday 28 th November 2019	Futsal competition at Tranmere Rovers Football Club 9:00am-12:00pm
Friday 29 th November 2019	Christmas Fair @3:30pm- 6:00pm – We need a lot of helpers on this afternoon/evening. If you are able to help, please add your name to the clipboard in the reception area.
Monday 2 nd December 2019	F2- Y6 Flu Immunisations
Monday 9 th December 2019	Heswall Round Table Santa's Wagon- Please note children cannot attend this event.
Wednesday 11 th December 2019	F2 & KS1 Christmas Performance at 9:30am. Tickets will be limited for this event.
Wednesday 11 th December 2019	F2 & KS1 Christmas Performance at 6:00pm. Tickets will be limited for this event.
Thursday 12 th December 2019	School closed due to being used as a polling station for the General Election.
Friday 13 th December 2019	Christmas Lunch day and Christmas Shop day (PTA). Children can wear a Christmas jumper to school.

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Monday 16 th December 2019	Breakfast with Santa event (PTA) tickets will be available through ParentPay.
Tuesday 17 th December 2019	Christmas Marathon Day- Sponsored event to raise money for school.
Wednesday 18 th December 2019	Christmas Service (KS2) at St Peter's Church.
Thursday 19 th December 2019	Christmas Cinema Trip to the Light Cinema.
Friday 20 th December 2019	Break up today at 2:30pm.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Mrs McAleny

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