



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 3- 23.09.2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

School life still feels a little strange as we can't run in our usual way but we are slowly adapting to our 'new' normal and our children have been amazing at adapting to the new systems and procedures which are in place in school. There is an enormous amount of work that is going on (behind the scenes) in order to keep our children and staff safe. I am incredibly grateful to my staff who are working tirelessly and having to adapt to new ways and systems of working, all of which they are doing with great positivity. We are desperately trying to maintain high standards of teaching and learning whilst also ensuring that we have robust hygiene and safety measures in place for all our children and staff.

Many thanks to our Y1 parents this week for their understanding and support following the decision to close the Y1 class. All of the decisions we make will always be made with the support of the DfE, the local authority and Public Health. I completely appreciate that this is a very difficult situation for parents and the coronavirus pandemic is making us all deal with and live in times of great uncertainty. I can assure you that none of these decisions are made lightly but we have to do everything we can to try and minimise the risk of infection and take action when there has been a confirmed case. Please can I remind all parents, who are awaiting test results, that you inform us straight away so that decisive action can be taken quickly. If you receive a positive test result at the weekend, please email me via the school office email address: [schooloffice@gayton.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@gayton.wirral.sch.uk). I will be monitoring this email account at regular intervals throughout the weekend period and then will be in touch with parents for further details. I am really hoping that we don't have further cases, but unfortunately I am unable to guarantee this so it is vital that we all work together to protect the school community.

### Newsletters

For the current time the school newsletter will now come out on a fortnightly basis. If I need to communicate something with parents in between times, I will of course do this via the E-School system. However, a lot of my time is currently being spent in ensuring that all our COVID risk assessment systems are in place and are being adhered to daily. School also isn't having the same level of activities/events so unfortunately there isn't as much to update parents with at the moment.

### Face Coverings

Many thanks to all our parents for wearing a face covering for the school drop off and pick up. It is very much appreciated so that we are all playing our part in protecting our community.



### Meetings with Parents

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, if any meetings take place with parents, they will need to take place outside. If we are unable to hold the meeting outside, it will need to take place via telephone or alternatively using Google Meet. This is completely against our school values and the ethos of the school but unfortunately I

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need to do this to keep my staff and children safe. By limiting the number of people who access the school building, I am reducing the risk of transmission of the virus.



### **Sound System – Fundraising**

An enormous thank you to all our parents for your support in raising **£1547.60** for our new sound system. We are all completely overwhelmed by the response from parents and incredibly grateful to you all. If you would like to make a donation, and you haven't done so already, you can do this via Parent Pay.

### **Curriculum Information for parents.**

Next week, we will be sending home year group information for parents regarding the curriculum. Normally we would hold a meeting to take parents through this information, but due to the COVID-19 regulations we are unable to do this currently.

### **Staff update: Mrs Daly**

Y2 parents have already been informed, but Mrs Daly will be working from home from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2020. This is due to the COVID guidelines for pregnant women changing from 28 weeks and it is no longer deemed safe for Mrs Daly to work on school premises once she reaches 28 weeks. She will still be very much part of our school community until the end of the autumn term when she plans to commence her maternity leave. However, we have now recruited Mrs Carroll who will be joining the Gayton team from 5<sup>th</sup> October. Mrs Carroll is an experienced teacher, who has worked for many years at a school in Huyton. With the support of Mrs Daly, I am sure that Mrs Carroll will settle in quickly and we are looking forward to her joining our staff team to cover the maternity leave position.

### **Google Classroom:**



Please can all parents (Y1- Y6) ensure that you have activated your child's Google Classroom account. As previously shared, all homework is being set via Google Classroom on a weekly basis so it is vital that your child has access to it. We are also using Google Classroom to set work for your child if they need to self-isolate and therefore cannot attend school. We are trying to do this as soon as possible once we know the child is self-isolating but sometimes it may be the end of the day before staff are able to upload work.

This week we have also trialled using Google Meet with our Y1 children who were having to stay at home to self-isolate. Miss Nederlof and Mrs Kurton have been running some phonics and English sessions as well as story time via Google Meet. This is new to all of us so we wanted to see how the children responded and whether the technology worked for us. Miss Nederlof feels that the children have coped well, attendance to the sessions has been good and I have had some positive feedback from parents regarding the sessions. Therefore, we will be investigating further use of this as a way of staying connected to our children in the event of having to close a class or a bubble. We would only be able to facilitate this if the teacher was well and if there is an additional adult to join the teaching sessions. We would not run a Google Meet teaching session with only one adult for safeguarding reasons.

Please can I just remind all parents that when accessing a Google Meet session, it is vital that you are signed in with your child's details. We will not let anyone join the Google Meet session if it is not a child's name. This happened today and the request was declined so all parents must ensure that they are signed in to Google with their child's details.

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### **Parents' Evenings-**

Parents' Evenings will not be able to take place face to face this term. We have been advised by the local authority that this is just not possible. We will therefore be arranging meetings by telephone. Times will be bookable via our usual E-Schools booking system but we will need to stagger these across the school as we only have two phone lines so can't have all the staff calling parents on the same evening(s). Dates for these meetings will be shortly published to parents.

### **Reminders:**

Please can all parents ensure that all jumpers/cardigans have name labels in them. We are trying really hard to reunite children with lost/forgotten items on a daily basis but it is virtually impossible when they are not named.

**Water Bottles-** Again please ensure that these are labelled to prevent children from accidentally drinking from another child's water bottle.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during these difficult times. We are very much looking forward to inviting all our Y1 children back to school tomorrow.

Kind regards,  
Mrs McAleny









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# COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) ABSENCE: A quick guide for parents/carers

**Keep.  
Wirral.  
Well.**

| What to do if...  | Action needed   | Return to school when...  |
|---|---|---|
|  <p>...my child has coronavirus symptoms</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Contact school</b></li> <li>✓ Self-isolate</li> <li>✓ Get a test</li> <li>✓ Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>  | <p>...the test comes back negative</p>  |
|  <p>...my child tests positive for coronavirus</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>✓ Self-isolate for at least 10 days</li> <li>✓ Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>  | <p>...they feel better. They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone.</p> |
|  <p>...somebody in my household has coronavirus symptoms</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Contact school</b></li> <li>✓ Self-isolate</li> <li>✓ Household member to get a test</li> <li>✓ Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>  | <p>...the household member test is negative</p>   |
|  <p>...somebody in my household has tested positive for coronavirus</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Contact school</b></li> <li>✓ Self-isolate for 14 days</li> </ul>   | <p>...the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation</p>   |
|  <p>...NHS test and trace have identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with symptoms or confirmed coronavirus</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>✗ <b>Contact school</b></li> <li>✗ Self-isolate for 14 days</li> </ul>   | <p>...the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation</p>   |
|  <p>...we/my child travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine</p>                                     | <p>Term time holidays, including absence as a result of needing to quarantine, are unauthorised.</p> <p>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Contact school</b></li> <li>✓ Self-isolate for 14 days - even if a test is negative</li> </ul> | <p>...the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed</p>   |
|  <p>...we have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Contact school</b></li> <li>✓ Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again</li> </ul>   | <p>...school inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again</p>  |
|  <p>...I am not sure who should get a test for COVID -19 (coronavirus)</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Only people with symptoms* need to get a test</li> <li>✓ People without symptoms are not advised to get a test, even if they are a 'close contact' of someone who tests positive</li> </ul>  | <p>...when conditions above, as matching your situation, are met</p>  |

\* Symptoms include at least one of a high temperature; a new continuous cough; a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste.

**WIRRAL**

[nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus)

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