



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- Friday 16th September 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

Return to school

Welcome to the autumn term! It has been wonderful to welcome all our children and staff back to school following the summer break. Our children have settled in exceptionally well and it has been so lovely to meet all our new F2 children and families.



Staffing update

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Jones back to school following her maternity leave. We are delighted to say that Mrs Prichard will be working with us full time now in F2. We have two School Direct students working with us; Miss Boardman will be based in Year 1 and Miss Haslem is based in Year 5.

Bank Holiday- Monday 19th September 2022

Monday 19th September will be a Bank Holiday to mark Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's State Funeral. All schools will be closed on this day. We will reopen on Tuesday 20th September 2022. The OPAL (Outdoor play and learning) club and the netball club will now start week commencing 26th September 2022.

11+ Selective assessment update

Due to the additional bank holiday, the 11+ selective assessment will now take place on Tuesday 20th September.

Y4 Barnstondale Residential visit (Wednesday 4th October- Friday 6th October 2022)

Our Y4 children will shortly be undertaking a residential visit to Barnstondale. We will be holding a meeting after school on **Tuesday 20th September at 3:40pm**. This will take place in the Y4 classroom. We appreciate that not all parents will be able to attend so we will make sure that the presentation and any further information distributed to parents is sent home to all parents following the meeting. We have also sent home the kit list for the residential. Please don't buy new clothing as they will be outside and need old clothing. The Y4 children will shortly be choosing their meal choices for when they are at the centre.



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Charity Football match

Many thanks to all the families who came along to the charity football match played on Saturday 27th August at Heswall Football club. This was such a great community event. We are incredibly grateful to Graeme Jones (ex pupil) for organising the event. Some of our pupils came along and were able to play during the event and enjoyed meeting Michael Thomas (ex Arsenal and Liverpool player).

We were very lucky to have a special guest visit from John Barnes to present us with this amazing cheque for £1105.00 which was raised from the charity football match. This will be going towards replacing our cross country and football kits which are very much in need of being updated.



Homework:

Homework will commence on **Friday 16th September 2022.**

All homework (Years 1-6) can be viewed via Google Classroom. We will ensure that we send home your child's login details for Google Classroom as every year we have to archive the old class and set up their new class. As a consequence of this, the children have a different class code.



If you are struggling with accessing Google Classroom, please contact the school office and the office staff will be able to support you.

Your child will also have login details for other programmes that we use in school e.g. TT Rockstars (Y3-6). These passwords will be shared in your child's reading record so that they have constant access to them. There are bound to be some issues initially with passwords etc for some of these sites and if this is the case, please just contact the school office and let us know.

For F2 pupils, Mrs Such will set some activities via Tapestry. Parents will need to log in to their child's account in order to see the activities that have been set.

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Huge thanks to Mrs Hulley and our eco-team for working really hard in the summer term to apply for our Modeshift Green Accreditation. We have been successful in our application and this demonstrates our commitment to encouraging happier, healthier and safer journeys to school.

Communication with teachers:

If you need to contact your child's class teacher, you will be able to see them on the gates at the end of the school day. If not, you can email the school office via: schooloffice@gayton.wirral.sch.uk and the teacher will get back to you as soon as possible.

Attendance and Punctuality update:

As of 1st September 2022, the DfE have released new guidance for schools entitled '*Working Together to Improve School Attendance*' which puts a greater onus on schools to reduce absence as far as possible; you can read a summary of the expectation for parents, schools and local authorities in this document.

Attendance will continue to be closely monitored in school and, where we see anomalies or where attendance is below 90% (which is classed by the DfE as being persistently absent), you will be contacted by letter and/or invited to a meeting to discuss any possible support. Parents may also wish to access the Family Toolbox for further support.

We acknowledge that each family is different and there are rare occasions when parents will need to request leave of absence for their child(ren). Any request for leave of absence will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances and these must be outlined in writing, so that each request can be considered. Whilst I always aim to work with parents to ensure the wellbeing of our children and their families, I will be unable to authorise absences outside of truly exceptional circumstances. Please be advised that any absences outside of the above circumstances will be classed as unauthorised and could be subject to a fine from the local authority.

The following dates are set aside for national testing. It is vital that your child is in school for these periods:

F2 Reception Baseline Testing - Sep & Oct 2022

Year 1 Phonics Screening - 12th-16th June 2023

Year 2 SATS - May 2023

Year 4 times tables check - June 2023

Year 6 SATS - 8th-11th May 2023



Labelling of clothing:

Many thanks to all the parents that have taken time to label your child's clothing for the return to school. We have already been able to reunite children with lots of items of lost property as they have been labelled; it really does make a huge difference so thank you!

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Wellies:

Please can all parents send a pair of wellies or old trainers into school so that your child can access the field in all weathers. These will be kept in school in the welly storage for each class. When the weather is very poor, we will not allow children to play on the field unless they have wellies/old trainers to get changed into.



Autumn term clubs:



We have recently sent out the club overview for the autumn term. If you are planning on registering your child for a club, please do this as soon as possible as some of the clubs currently have very low numbers and the club providers will need to make a decision as to whether the club will be viable to run.

World car free day – Bling your Bike/Scooter day



On Thursday 22nd September it is World Car Free day so it would be lovely if lots of our families tried to not use their car to transport their children to school and either walked or used alternative methods of transport. We are encouraging children to walk to school, cycle or scoot. We are also taking part in bling your bike/scooter day. Your child can decorate their bike/scooter and then bring it to school with them. We will store them safely on the playground for the day. Please note that we will allow children to bring roller skates if they haven't got a bike or scooter but we are not permitting skate boards on this day.

We will also provide time for each class to ride their bikes/scooters on the playground during the day. We look forward to seeing all the creative bikes/scooters! Please don't worry if your child doesn't have a bike/scooter as we do have some in school.



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Use of the school car park and parking in the local area.



Please can I remind all parents that the school car park should not be used for dropping off or collecting children either before or after school. This car park is intended for the use of school staff only and traffic needs to be kept to a minimum as we have children and families walking through the car park to access the S4YC before and after school club provision.

Please can I request that all parents park considerately when dropping off and collecting their child from school. Please do not block the driveways of our neighbours as it is inconsiderate and causes disruption for our local residents.

Finally, our school council are very much thinking about how we can make the world a better place and our impact on the environment. Therefore, they would like to encourage all parents to turn off their engines when they are waiting outside school.

Thank you for your continued support,

Kind regards,



Mrs McAleny

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Key Dates:

Date	Event
Friday 16 th September 2022	Homework commences
Monday 19 th September 2022	Clubs commence this week.
Monday 19 th September 2022	Bank Holiday- School closed.
Tuesday 20 th September 2022	Full Governing Board meeting at 6:00pm
Wednesday 21 st September 2022	Clothing collection- Please drop donations off under the canopy by 9:00am.
Wednesday 21 st September 2022	Prospective parents' tour (2023-2024 intake) @9:15am. Please contact the school office to book on.
Tuesday 20 th September 2022	Barnstondale meeting for parents at 3:30pm in Y4 classroom. We will send out all information to parents who are unable to attend.
Thursday 22 nd September 2022	Bling your bike/scooter day.
Thursday 22 nd September 2022	Cross Country at Birkenhead Park- Y4, Y5 & Y6 Y7 pupils are also invited to attend. Further information has been sent home to families.
Monday 26 th September 2022	Harvest celebration in school led by St Peter's Church.
Tuesday 27 th September 2022.	OPAL Parents' afternoon at 1:30pm- Presentation from Ben Twail (OPAL mentor) followed by a play session in school.
Monday 3 rd October 2022	F2 Phonics and Reading workshop for parents and children at 6:00pm. Further details to follow.
Wednesday 5 th October 2022	Y4 Barnstondale Residential- lunch in school and then parents to support in collecting at 1:00pm and take pupils to Barnstondale.
Thursday 6 th October 2022	Census Day- All F2, Y1 & Y2 to have a hot dinner on this day.
Thursday 6 th October 2022	Cross Country at Arrow Park- Y4, Y5 & Y6 Further information to be shared with families.
Friday 7 th October 2022	Y4 Barnstondale Residential ends- parents to collect at 3:30pm from Barnstondale.
Monday 10 th October 2022	Prospective parents' tour (2023-2024 intake) @9:15am. Please contact the school office to book on.
Tuesday 18 th October 2022	Parents' Evening- 3:40pm- 6:50pm
Wednesday 19 th October 2022	Parents' Evening- 3:40pm- 6:50pm
Thursday 20 th October 2022	Cross Country at Birkenhead Park 4:15pm (Y4-Y6) Further information to follow.
Friday 21 st October 2022	Break up today for half term holiday.
31 st October 2022	Inset Day – Children not in school.
1 st November 2022	Children return to school today.

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2 nd November 2022	Prospective parents' tour (2023-2024 intake) @ 9:15am. Please contact the school office to book on.
Wednesday 9 th November 2022	Writing workshops for parents (F2, Y1 & Y2) at 9:00am- 10:15am.
Thursday 10 th November 2022	Writing workshop for parents (KS2) at 9:00am- 10:15am.
Thursday 17 th November 2022	Flu nasal immunisation day (F2- Y6) Parents will need to provide E-consent for this.
Friday 18 th November 2022	Children in Need Day- Children can wear their own clothes on this day for a small donation to Children in Need.
Tuesday 29 th November 2022	Governing Board Committee meetings: 6:00pm- Curriculum & Standards. 7:00pm- Resources
Week commencing 5 th December 2022	Autumn term clubs finish this week.
Wednesday 14 th December 2022	F2, Y1 & Y2- Nativity performance for parents @9:30am. (2 tickets per family for either one of the performances)
Thursday 15 th December 2022	F2, Y1 & Y2- Nativity performance for parents @9:30am (2 tickets per family for either one of the performances)
Tuesday 20 th December 2022	Break up today at 2:30pm for Christmas holiday.
Wednesday 4 th January 2023	Inset day- Children not in school.
Thursday 5 th January 2023	Children return to school.

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