



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 5- 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

Dear Parents & Carers,

### **Y2 Return to school & Covid-19 updates.**

It has been lovely to welcome our Y2 pupils back to school today. I want to say a very big thank you to our Y2 parents for your support during this time. I know how incredibly challenging self-isolation periods are for parents but unfortunately it appears that we are going to continue living with coronavirus for many more months to come. School is doing everything we can to try and minimise the risk of coronavirus spreading within the school environment. However, when cases are confirmed we have to follow the DfE guidance for schools in order to ensure that we are protecting our whole school community. Please know that we completely understand how difficult this is for parents and can only apologise for all the inconvenience caused.

On a separate note, I would like to say a very big thank you to Mrs Carroll and Mrs Morley for running the live teaching sessions via Google Meet during the self-isolation period for our Y2 pupils. Mrs Carroll had never experienced working with Google Classroom before she joined our school but she was supported by Mrs Daly and very quickly and successfully managed to provide remote education for our Y2 pupils.

I am incredibly grateful to all our staff, who are working tirelessly to provide high quality education for the children in school, whilst also setting work for the children who are having to self-isolate at home. After the half term holiday, we will be publishing our remote learning plan for parents so you can see what you can expect from the school in the event of different scenarios in relation to Covid-19. We really are committed to taking a pro-active approach in order to try and ensure parents and pupils are supported during these incredibly challenging times.

### **Harvest Donations**

Many thanks to all our parents for your donations for the foodbank. We know that this will make a huge difference to families in need of support on the Wirral and the foodbank are incredibly grateful for all our donations. All donations will be delivered to the Foodbank tomorrow so thank you very much!



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## PTA AGM:



Many thanks to all the parents who attended the PTA AGM meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020. It was lovely to see so many parents willing to give up their time to attend the meeting and show their support to the PTA.

I would like to say a very big thank you to the PTA committee from last year who really did an amazing job at raising so much money for school in such a short period of time. Their efforts and hard work has made a huge difference to our school and I am incredibly grateful to them all for all their time, effort and energy.

The following members of the committee from last year have now stood down so many thanks to you all for everything: Lindsay Murphy, Anne Hogan, Maxine Seaton, Zoe Simms & Adele Rylance

Moving forwards to this academic year, many thanks to Nikki Phillips (Chair) Jenny Young (Secretary) & Nicola Chapman (treasurer) for stepping forward to form the trustee roles for the PTA.

If we don't have these three positions filled, then the PTA would have to lie dormant which would be a terrible shame. Many thanks to Nikki Phillips for agreeing to stand again for chair and to Jenny Young for putting herself forward as secretary. Nicola Chapman has agreed to hold the role of treasurer until January but we will then need to find someone willing to take on this role so if you are interested please contact school so we can arrange for you to shadow Nicola during this term.

The PTA are going to be utilising their PTA representatives this year to try and help share the workload. If you have any ideas for any events that could run safely with Covid-19 restrictions, please let your PTA representative know.

**Sound System:** The Sound System has now been installed and is fully operational; we have been making use of this on a daily basis! Huge thanks to all the parents and PTA for making this possible.

## Upcoming PTA events:



**Virtual Balloon Race-** If you would like to take part in the virtual balloon race, you can purchase a balloon by visiting the website:

<https://ecoracing.co/user/page/906/?paginate=0>

Balloons cost £3.00 each and the PTA will receive £2.40 from each balloon purchased.

The balloon race starts from Dracula's castle on the 31<sup>st</sup> October and will last 7 days.

**School Lottery:** The PTA have now registered for us to take part in the school lottery. If you would like to join in, you can sign up at: <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/gayton-primary-school>  
Tickets cost £1.00 each and there are some great prizes to be won.

**Gazebo Roof-** Huge thanks to one of our F2 parents who has kindly offered to repair the gazebo roof for free with his company. We are incredibly grateful to him for his very kind gesture as this has saved a considerable amount of money.

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## Secondary School Year 7 Applications.

Please remember that the deadline for applications for Secondary school places is **31<sup>st</sup> October 2020**. It is really important that all Y6 parents complete the application by this deadline.

### Celebration assembly (Y1- Y6)



On Friday, we trialled inviting all our Y2 children, who were self-isolating at home, as well as other pupils who were at home so they could be part of our usual remote celebration assembly. For a Headteacher, it is still a very strange feeling delivering an assembly to a computer screen with Gerald the Gayton giraffe as my only



company!

I dream of the days when we can all, once again, be in the hall together as a whole school staff with all the children. However, at the current time, we have to do everything we can to keep our whole school community safe whilst at the same time still try and promote the feeling of being connected and together. Therefore every Friday, we will post the link to the celebration assembly via Google Classroom so that any children who are self-isolating at home can join in with assembly. The link will be posted 5 minutes prior to the assembly start time. Usually, Celebration assemblies occur at 1:30pm on a Friday but can change depending on whether I have to attend meetings. Therefore, we will communicate this with the necessary families every week so you know what time the assembly is scheduled to take place.

Please can I just remind all parents that it is vital that you sign in to Google classroom with your child's details. On Friday, some parents were denied entry to the celebration assembly, this was because you were not signed in as your child. If you are signed in as your child, your access to the meeting does not need to be approved by the administrator as you are part of the Gayton community. School will not (in future) be permitting entry for anyone who is not signed in with your child's details so please ensure that you check this before trying to access the assembly.

### F2 Parent & Child Reading Workshop



Mrs Such will be running a virtual parent and child reading workshop for F2 at **5pm on Tuesday 3rd November 2020**. This usually takes place in school, but unfortunately due to the current restrictions, we are unable to invite parents into school. Therefore, Mrs Such is going to adapt the session and run it via Google Meet. The session is intended for parents and your child so there will be activities to complete with your child as part of the session. We hope that lots of our new F2 parents and children will be able to join in. We will email out the link for you to join the meeting.

### Virtual new intake meeting for parents for prospective parents 2021-2022



We have had some enquiries from parents regarding coming to visit school for a tour in relation to applying for a place at Gayton for 2021-2022. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are not allowed to show parents around the school. We are just in the process of producing a video for parents so you will be able to view the inside and outside of our school building. However, we would also like to invite any prospective parents to join our virtual new intake meeting. This will take place on **Wednesday 11th November at 6:30pm** and will be an opportunity for parents to find out more about the

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school. If you would like to attend, please could you phone the school office and they will take your email address so an invitation can be sent to you.

If you know any parents who may live in the local area and be interested in applying for a school place at Gayton, please share this information with them.

### **Inset Day- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.**



Please can I remind all parents that school has an inset day on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020. Therefore children return to school on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.**

For our inset day, all staff will be undertaking training based on the Rest Easy approach. This is something that I wanted to introduce last year but unfortunately it had to be put on hold due to the COVID-19 lockdown. Rest Easy is a whole school approach to wellbeing and mental health and we are very excited to be training all our staff in this approach. Further information will be shared with parents once we have had our staff training.

### **Term Time Leave of Absence:**



We have been asked to circulate the following message on behalf of the Wirral Attendance Team...

Please be aware that the law around compulsory school attendance is now back in force since the start of the Autumn Term. This includes the regulations around leave of absence during term time. There continues to be no entitlement for parents to take their child out of school during term-time, unless this is completely unavoidable. Children have already lost so much teaching and learning time due to the coronavirus, and the priority now is for us to work together in the best interests of all children's education.

All schools within Wirral work closely with the Council on school attendance matters. The Council is fully committed to making sure that all children attend school and make the best possible progress.

Unauthorised holidays taken during term time can result in Penalty Notices being issued by the Council. As a school, this is something that we would wish to avoid and ask that any holidays be planned for school holiday periods.

### **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.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during these difficult times. Wishing all our families a safe and happy half term holiday and we look forward to seeing all our children back in school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.

Kind regards,

Mrs McAleny

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**Key Dates:**

Date	Event
October 2020	Black History Month
19 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Parents' Evening- Telephone consultations during this week for F2, Y1, Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6.
23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2020	PTA- Break the Rules Day Break up today for half term holiday.
31 <sup>st</sup> October 2020	Deadline for Secondary School applications (Current Y6 pupils)

2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2020	Inset Day- School not open to children.
3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020	Children return to school.
11 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Remembrance Assembly
20 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Flu Immunisations all day – please return forms if you haven't already done so.
1 <sup>st</sup> December 2020	Full Governing Board meeting @6:00pm
11 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	PTA Elfridges Christmas Shop
16 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Christmas Dinner day
17 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	PTA Non-School uniform day and create Christmas hats fun.
18 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Break up today for Christmas break at 2:30pm.

4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Inset Day- School not open to children.
5 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Children return to school.

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