



Be the best you can be!

19TH OCTOBER 2018

Newsletter 2

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It has been quite an eventful first half term to the year! With Mrs Chapman on sick leave and Mrs Hill on adoption leave, I have been manning the fort at Gayton! The children have responded brilliantly and I'd like to thank you all for your support during the past few weeks. Mrs Chapman and Mrs Hill should thankfully be back in the coming weeks!

Our friendly historian, Charlie, has provided the children with some unforgettable learning experiences again this half term, such as building a Viking longship, building a stone age house and making WWII willow sculptures. Next week he will be building a Roman siege engine with the year 3s! Watch out next half-term for Parents' Evenings, Book Week, a Diwali Day and the Year 3 Christmas Production.

Mr O'Donnell

Football cards

We are having an increasing number of children bringing football cards and stickers to school. I do not have a problem with children showing off their collections and swapping cards before school and at break time, as I did the same when I was at school! However, the children have been informed that if these cards are taken out or are played with in class, they will be taken off them. Also, staff will not entertain complaints from children that they want a card back that they have swapped or given away, nor will we pursue lost or stolen cards. We believe it is a valuable lesson to learn to look after one's possessions and that once you have given away something, you cannot have it back! As always, we encourage children to not bring to school something they would be upset about if it got lost or damaged.



Water bottles

As a staff, we strongly believe that children should have access to drinking water - there is a wealth of research about the benefits of keeping hydrated that support this view - which is why we allow water bottles at tables during lessons. However, we are increasingly finding that children are bringing a variety of drinks other than water in their bottles. While I empathise with children and parents about preferring squash to plain water, there are a number of valid reasons why we have enforced a water only rule.

Firstly, we have a large number of children with allergies, if other children are drinking drinks other than water, it increases the chance of allergic reactions; when water is spilt it is easy to clean up, spilt juices leave a sticky, coloured residue; we also have problems with ants in the summer months and sugary drinks and spillages would attract them even more; drinking drinks with a sugary content through sippy-lids dramatically increases the rate of tooth decay; and lastly, our school as a whole scored highly on the obesity scale and we need to be seen to be tackling this any way we can. Unfortunately there is no way of monitoring what all 370 children in the school are drinking and allowing parents and children the choice to bring in drinks other than water would open the flood gates for children to bring in anything they want to drink, including unhealthy sugar-filled drinks like Lucozade and Ribena etc as there would be no way for us to police what they are drinking. The only solution therefore is to enforce a water only policy so that we can ensure our children are kept safe and healthy. Thank you in advance for your support in this matter.



Staff changes

We are pleased to announce that Mr Bird has been appointed as our new Premises Manager.



Lost property

We already have a huge amount of lost property, including over 20 jumpers and cardigans without names inside them! Please, please, please label your child's school clothes so we can get them back to your child if they are misplaced!

More bizarrely, we also have a black and pink scooter in our office, which was left at the end of last year! Please let us know if it belongs to a member of your family!



Parking

We continue to receive regular complaints about parking at school drop off and pick up times. Ridgeway Infants School, Saint George's School and ourselves are working closely with local councillors and Derby City Council in order to find a long term solution. In the meantime we ask that if it is absolutely necessary to drive your child to school that you are considerate to the local residents and other parents when parking your car. Please avoid parking across residents' driveways, obstructing the pavements and double parking.

The council enforcement team will be attending the area regularly and issuing fixed penalty notices when necessary and the council enforcement camera car will be active in the area.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep our pupils and local community safe.

Safeguarding

There is now a new safeguarding section on our school website. We also have a new safeguarding email for any concerns you have and any information you may need.

The email is safeguarding@gaytonj.derby.sch.uk

We are also fully set up to partake in the new SDAT (Stopping Domestic Abuse Together) initiative linked with the police which starts on November 1st.

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th October	All day	Roman Charlie in year 3
Friday 26th October	All day	Treat day End-of-half-term
HALF TERM		
Monday 5th November	All day	INSET Day, school closed to pupils
Tuesday 6th November	8.55 a.m.	School reopens
Wednesday 7th November	All day	Diwali Day
Monday 12th and Wednesday 14th November	3:40 - 6:30	Parent evenings
Friday 16th November	All Day	Children in Need
Wednesday 28th November	9:30am-10:30am, 1:45pm-2:45pm and 6:00pm-7:00pm	Open Day for parents of Year 2 children.
Monday 3rd December	All day	INSET Day, school closed to pupils
Wednesday 5th December	12:15 - 1:20	School Christmas Dinner!
Thursday 6th December	tbc	Christmas Discos
Wednesday 12th December	2pm and 6pm	Year 3 Christmas production to parents
Friday 14th December	All day	Christmas Jumper Day!
Friday 21st December	All day	Treat day End-of-term
Christmas holidays		
Monday 7th January	8:55 am	School reopens