



Be the best you can be!

NEWSLETTER 5

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It is almost Spring and soon we will be able to say goodbye to the cold dark days of Winter! We are busy getting ready for Book Week – see the details below. Don't forget to try and come into school to see our open lessons on Monday 6th March.

Mrs J. Chapman

From after half term until the end of the Summer term, Mr O'Donnell has been asked to work to support another school. This is a temporary arrangement until the end of July. In his absence, Mrs Orchard has offered to increase her days in Class 2 we are pleased to welcome back Mrs Barber, who has worked with us previously, for the other days. We have done this to try to ensure as little disruption to Mr O'Donnell's class as possible. However, this does mean that we have to change the swimming days for all the Year 3 classes from after half term. **Class 1 will swim on Mondays, Class 3 on Tuesdays and Class 2 will swim on Wednesdays.**

Reading

On 26th January there was high excitement as children rushed to get into the hall to borrow one of the books recommended by staff on the display at the front of the hall. I was delighted to see so much excitement about reading!



Book Week Reminder

Book Week is the week beginning **6th March**. The National Curriculum states that children need to read a wide range of books including books from other cultures and traditions, so we have decided that the focus for this term's Book Week will be to explore stories from other cultures.

Dressing Up Day—Friday 10th March

Your child may dress up in clothes or costumes to represent the country that their year group will be studying *if they wish* on **Friday 10th March**. We will **not** be collecting any money for this. To be clear, the children should wear their school shoes, **not** trainers or boots, and they should wear clothes or costumes traditionally worn in the country from the book they are reading. The countries to be are: Year 3—Kenya; Year 4—Egypt ; Year 5—Australia and Year 6—China.

We would also like to invite you into school to work alongside your child in the '**Open Parent Sessions**' for reading. You can take part in the exciting lessons that the teachers have planned for your children, allowing you to see how we teach reading in school.

These Open Sessions will take place on **Monday 6th March at 9:10 a.m. and 2:15 p.m.** The Book Fair will also be open so that you can visit it with your child after the lesson. We hope that you will be able to attend. We know the children cherish the opportunity to show off what they are learning in class with you. A letter will be sent out with more information for you to book a place in one of the sessions in the first week after half term, so remember to check your child's school bag for it.

Please don't forget that school will be closed for INSET on Monday 20th February.

Earrings

We are approaching another holiday so I wanted to remind you that if your child wishes to have their ears pierced, then please do so at the start of the **summer holiday** so that the ears have time to heal. Staff are not allowed to remove earrings and we do not let the children put tape over them, so it is important that the children can either remove their earrings themselves or do not wear them on PE days. Small plain studs only please.

Safeguarding

Leaving Children at Home Alone: The NSPCC has created a tool to help parents decide whether or not their child is ready to be left home alone. It raises questions for parents to think about, helps them to prepare their child for being left and considers alternatives. Have a look at the tool on their website: <https://home-alone.nspcc.org.uk>

Stay Safe Online: I know you all received the pack of materials with links to websites to help you keep your children safe online following the "Alright Charlie" meeting on 18th January, but I've recently been made aware of another website about Internet safety and it includes advice on how to use parental controls to protect your children. Have a look at the website: <https://www.getsafeonline.org>



We've recently received a warning about a new app called **Live Me**. This enables children to live stream videos of themselves to others. There has been an incident in another local authority where a 12-year-old child put themselves in danger by live streaming video without privacy settings—allowing anyone to watch it. The app is meant for people aged at least 18 (or aged 13 with parental permission). **Please be alert if your child is using this app and be aware of what they are watching and sending out and who can access it.**



We have also received information that an app called **"MyLOL"** is unsafe for children to use and should be deleted immediately as the police have concerns that it is being used for inappropriate activities involving young people.

First News– The Newspaper for Children

First News have made us their VIP school because we order more copies of their children's newspaper than any other school in the country! This week their editor made a five hour trip to come to speak to us for half an hour. She is keen for our children to feedback on why they enjoy the newspaper so much and she would like children from Gayton to start writing articles for the newspaper, meaning we will soon be on the look out for budding journalists!

Visit by Councillor Ranjit Banwait

On 13th January the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ranjit Banwait visited our School Council and the children were able to ask him questions. Staff didn't have any involvement in forming the questions, however the children asked questions which were thoughtful and perceptive and, we think, put Councillor Banwait on the spot about some of the council's decisions!

In February our value of the month is **Honesty**. As always, children will be doing work in classes around Honesty and will have assemblies about the importance of Honesty.

In March our value will be **Appreciation** and we hope to link this with Mothering Sunday, which is on 26th March. So to all the mums, other female carers and family members out there, we hope we can help towards you feeling appreciated for all the love and care you give your children!



Diary Dates 2017

Friday 10th February	All Day	Treat Day and school closes for half term.
HALF TERM		
Monday 20th February	All Day	School closed for training
Tuesday 21st February	8.45 a.m.	School reopens
Thursday 23rd February	2 p.m.	School hosts "The Big Quiz"
Friday 3rd March	11.15 a.m.– 3.15 p.m.	Year 6 Fire Safety Talks
Monday 6th—Friday 10th March	All week	Book week – Stories From Other Cultures
Monday 6th March	9.10a.m. or 2.15 p.m.	Open Sessions for Book Week
Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th March	3.45-6.30 p.m.	Parents' Evenings
Monday 20th March	All Day	Class 10 London Trip
Tuesday 21st March	All Day	Class 12 London Trip
Wednesday 22nd March	All Day	Class 11 London Trip
Friday 24th March	All Day	Red Nose Day
Friday 7th April	All day	Treat Day and school closes for Easter holiday
EASTER HOLIDAY		
Monday 24th April	8.55am	School reopens
Monday 1st May	All Day	School closed for May Day
Week Beginning Monday 8th May	All week	Year 6 SATs Week
Friday 12th May	All Day	Sponsored Event (news to follow!)
Tuesday 23rd May and Wednesday 24th May	All Day	Arts Day
Friday 26th May	All Day	Treat Day and school closes for half term.
HALF TERM		
Monday 5th June	8.55am	School reopens
Tuesday 6th June	9.10 a.m.	Escape Cyber Crime Production in the Hall for all classes
Wednesday 7th June	9.00 a.m.	Classes, Groups and Leavers' Photos
Thursday 8th June	3.30 p.m.	PGL Parents' Meeting
Monday 12th June	All Day	Year 5 Seaside Trip
Wednesday 14th June	Afternoon	The Giant Walk