

Half Term is fast approaching and this marks the halfway point in what has already been a really exciting year. Look out for letters with details of our Parents' Meetings on Monday 4th or Wednesday 6th March—they will be in bags later this week.

The children worked hard in January to produce some super short stories with a moral that will be published by Scholastic, the company that run our Book Fairs. You will be able to order the book, which will include stories by every child in school, at our March Book Fair. Look out for more details on this from Mr Kettle.

Lots of you are supporting your child to complete their Maths Target booklets at home. Remember that the Spring 1 target booklets are due back in school this week. Teachers have already noticed the difference this work has made to children's confidence in maths—thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs J Hill



Super Student Scheme



We were really pleased that three quarters of the school were able to visit the cinema before Christmas after receiving gold awards for their attitude and effort over the half term.

Gold Awards = 274 children
Silver Awards = 84 children
Bronze Awards = 8 children

Mobile Phones

We are being handed growing numbers of mobile phones each morning in the school office. Whilst we understand that many of you are allowing your child to walk to school and this is a way of knowing that they get here or home safely, please can you ensure your child is only bringing their phone on days that they really need it? **Children will now need signed permission to bring their phones to school—slips can be obtained from the school office.**



Communication



Don't forget to follow us @GaytonJunior after our relaunch for all the latest news and reminders! We have also added our calendar to the school website. Look for the link on the homepage—www.gaytonj.derby.sch.uk

Vocabulary Development

Staff are continuing to implement different Talk for Learning strategies in lessons and I'm seeing the strategies used in all sorts of lessons when I pop into classrooms.



So far, staff have focused on using one main strategy a month, although they are allowed to use others, in order to fully embed strategies over the course of the year.

In November, children were introduced to Paired Echoing. In pairs, as Amazing A or Brilliant B, children sit knee to knee. Amazing A will talk about a certain topic (something they have learnt or read during the lesson) and Brilliant B will listen, using the signals for pause and rewind if needed. Brilliant B will then echo back what they have heard before swapping over roles.



December saw staff expand on this, with children listening to more than one person giving them some information as part of a carousel activity. Paired Echoing took place, before the children moved round in the carousel and repeated the activity. Sometimes, teachers chose for the children to hear the same information again, albeit from a different person, but children have also been challenged to listen to more than one piece of information each time the carousel moves!

In January, children have been having a go at 'Mum Went to Aldi', a task I'm sure many of you will recognise! The teacher will pose a topic, such as multiples of 8, French clothing words, acts of kindness, countries in Europe, 3D shapes, etc.



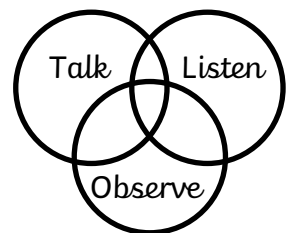
Child 1 will name a 3D shape, '**sphere**'.

Child 2 will repeat Child 1's shape and add one of their own, '**sphere and cuboid**'.

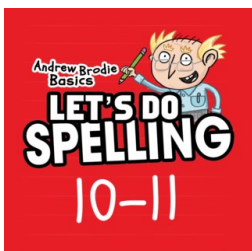
Child 3 will repeat the first two shapes and add one of their own, '**sphere, cuboid and triangular prism**', and so on.

This is a great one for you to try at home with your children!

This month we are focusing on Triads. This involves paired talk again but this time with a third person who acts as an observer. Their role is to make notes, coach and praise good speaking and listening behaviours of the other two children.



Spellings



We've been asked by several parents in recent weeks about whether there are any good spelling apps on the market for children to use. Bloomsbury Education's 'Let's Do Spelling' apps are really good—they focus in on a specific age range so that the spellings are tailored towards the national curriculum learning objectives for your child's year group. The app is £3.99 in the Apple App Store and Bloomsbury also have Let's Do Times Tables apps if you fancy giving those a try too!

A similar app, available on Android too, is Squeebles Spelling Test. This also costs £3.99 and you will need to download spelling tests (for free). They have tests for specific spelling patterns and also National Curriculum words at Level 3 and Level 4.



Safeguarding

The UK Safer Internet Centre has published guidance on using the social networking app Tik Tok. The app allows users to record, create and upload videos of themselves lip-syncing to songs and audio clips. Guidance includes: how to enable privacy settings; using parental controls in the app; age requirements for using Tik Tok; how to report inappropriate or offensive content and functionality to be aware of. To view this guidance, please visit <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/what-tiktok-looking-latest-lip-syncing-app>



First Steps visited school again to work with our Year 5 children with a focus on self-image and body confidence and Project Zao have also visited to work with Year 6 children. Project Zao has been launched by Derbyshire Police, Derby City Council, Youth Offending Service, Derbyshire Probation, Derby Schools, Derby County and the youth group Enthusiasm. The project aims to discourage young people in the city from carrying knives by a series of activities that will educate, prevent and enforce the consequences of doing so. The action follows growing concern amongst the organisations that the number of young people routinely carrying knives in the city has grown in the last few months. Have a look at their webpage on the Derby City site to read more about them and download useful advice for parents.

<https://www.derby.gov.uk/community-and-living/crime-prevention/preventing-knife-crime-in-derby/>

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 5th February	All day	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 12th February	All day	Year 5 Gurdwara Trip
Friday 15th February	3:30pm	Treat day End of term
Half Term		
Monday 25th February	8:55am	School reopens
Monday 25th February	11:15am—3:30pm	Year 6 Fire Safety Talks
Monday 4th March— Friday 8th March	All Week	Book Week
Monday 4th March & Wednesday 6th March	3:30pm—6:30pm	Parent/Carer Meetings
Thursday 7th March	All Day	World Book Day
Friday 15th March	All Day	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 2nd April	3:30pm	Castleton Meeting for Year 4 Parents/Carers
Friday 12th April	3:30pm	Treat day End of term
Easter Holidays		
Monday 29th April	8:55am	School reopens
Tuesday 30th April	3:30pm	PGL Meeting for Year 6 Parents/Carers
Wednesday 1st— Thursday 2nd May	All Day	Year 4 Castleton Residential
Monday 6th May	All Day	School Closed—May Bank Holiday
Monday 13th— Thursday 16th May	All Day	Year 6 SATs
Friday 17th— Sunday 19th May	All Day	Year 6 PGL Residential