

Newsletter 7



We've had a wonderful week reading extracts from *The Inventions* of Hugo Cabret and taking part in a range of engaging activities about the different themes in the story. **Thanks to Mrs Aujla** for arranging this. With your support, we've also managed to earn over £1200 commission to spend on new resources for reading—**thank you**. There were some fantastic costumes on display yesterday and the effort both you and your children put in to celebrating World Book Day was fantastic—**thank you**!

And finally, **thank you** for coming into school this week for your meetings with class teachers. I know our staff really value having the time to speak to you and keep you updated with how your child is getting on at school. If you were unable to make your appointment, please contact the school office and arrange a time to pop in.

Mrs J Hill

Red Nose Day

We will be raising money on Friday 15th March for Comic Relief. At the suggestion of the School Council, we would like to invite children to wear something red (hairband, t-shirt, socks, trainers, etc.) or any Comic Relief merchandise that you may have purchased for a donation to the cause. Buckets for donations will be outside the front entrance before and after school. As usual, **please ensure that anything red should be worn alongside school uniforms—no jeans (unless they're red) please!**



Communication

We're launching our **free** Gayton Junior School app very soon! The app will allow you to return permission slips, update your contact details, and provide us with absence information, and allow us to send you key messages to keep you all up-to-date and many more things! Look out for further information on how to subscribe when we launch the app later this term.



In the meantime, 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**

Term Time Holidays



We have had more requests than normal for lengthy term time holidays this term. Whilst we appreciate that holiday costs are much higher during school holidays, these prices are out of our control and we have to follow local authority guidelines to mark these absences as unauthorised. This can make parents liable for penalty fines. Additionally, many children struggle greatly to catch up when they miss more than 5 days of school (for any reason). Please consider these factors when booking your future holidays.

Ramadan

Ramadan is due to begin in May and we are aware that there may again be some children who wish to fast during this period.

As you know, fasting is not obligatory for children until they reach adolescence and in the past we have asked that Muslim children who wish to fast should do this at the weekends when their health and well-being can be monitored by you, the people who know them best. The weather will be getting warmer, Year 5 children are off to Bosworth Water Park, our Year 6 children will be sitting their SATs tests and many will also be heading to PGL for the weekend too. We are concerned that children should not fast when they need all their powers of concentration and stamina to do their very best. During the residential trip to PGL, the children will be expected to participate in challenging physical activities and to eat at the mealtimes provided by the centre where they are staying. Staff will not be able to allow children extra meal times at night.



We hope that if your child talks to you about joining you when fasting you will explain our concerns to them and support us in not allowing children to fast during the week or on the residential trip.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Super Student Scheme



We were really pleased that we had even more children achieving gold awards last half term! Mr O'Donnell and the School Council are busy planning the next set of treats! Gold Awards = 294 children; Silver Awards = 57 children and Bronze Awards = 11 children.

As a result of bringing £1 for non-uniform last half term, we raised enough money to sponsor a polar bear, a panda, a dolphin and a sea turtle! Thank you!

Dinner Money

We are currently closing down the school budget for this financial year. If you have ANY dinner monies outstanding, could I please urge you to clear these by **Friday 22nd March at the very latest?** It is vitally important that we are not having to cover the cost of unpaid dinner money as we start budget planning for 2019-20. Covering the cost of unpaid debts means there is less money to spend on funding for the children.



Vocabulary Development

Our March Talk for Learning activity is Round Table Consensus. Pupils respond to a question individually before sharing their thinking with a group. The group debates and comes to a consensus as to whose approach was the best and that pupil presents it to the class.



Our work to support pupils who speak English as an additional language with their vocabulary acquisition has seen us revisit some strategies that would benefit all children when they come across unknown words in their reading. Finding synonyms (words that mean the same thing) and antonyms (words with the opposite meaning) for unknown words can really help and Google is a good starting point if you do not have a thesaurus at home! Getting children to sketch a picture of the word and having a try at putting the word into their own sentence can also help them to remember new words and their meanings.



Lost Property

Our Lost Property box started to overflow before Half Term. Weather permitting, it will be outside school at 3.30pm next week. Unfortunately, we are unable to continue to keep this amount of unclaimed lost property if it hasn't been named.

Our TAs spend a great deal of time reuniting named items with their owners and are happy to do so—please ensure your child's belongings are named!



Road Safety

We are so pleased that several children are frequently riding their bikes to school. However, following an increase in complaints from local residents regarding how pupils are riding them, we feel it is important that children are reminded about the importance of being safe when doing so. For this reason, we would like to remind all parents of our key guidelines in relation to cycling safety:

- It is strongly recommended that parents/carers identify the safest routes to school and equally, those routes best avoided for their children.
- Pupils should be encouraged to consider the needs of others when cycling, particularly when children are riding in the same areas as pedestrians.
- The Governors insist that all pupils wear a cycle helmet if cycling to school.

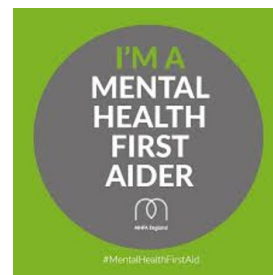
Ridgeway are still receiving a number of complaints about dangerous parking and driving around the entrance to the school. Please continue to be considerate when stopping to drop off or collect your children—too many cars parked on pavements make crossing hazards for those who are walking to school. One parent reported two instances of this creating serious dangers for herself when walking to school with her child: on one occasion a car almost reversed into them as they were waiting to cross. We continue to work with the local councillors and the neighbourhood groups to find solutions to these issues.

Could we please ask parents to avoid driving up to the school gates to drop off children when the gates are closed? Doing this means you have to reverse out onto the road and this seems like an easy danger to avoid.



Safeguarding

Mrs Clarke and Ms Hallam have successfully completed their training to become Mental Health First Aiders. This means they are more able to recognise the signs and symptoms of mental ill health in children and to support them effectively. If you would like more information or have any concerns about your child, please contact one of them, via the school office. It is really important that we continue to improve the support we are able to offer our children, particularly as latest national figures show that 10% of children and young people aged 5-16 suffer from mental ill health.



The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) has published guidance for clinicians and parents on screen time use and the effects of screen time on children and young people. A systematic review of evidence found that children with higher screen time tend to have: a less healthy diet, a higher energy intake, and more pronounced indicators of obesity; more depressive symptoms, although it has been found by some studies that some screen time is better for mental health than none at all. Recommendations include: avoid screens an hour before the planned bedtime; families should negotiate screen time limits with their children based upon the needs of an individual child. If you're interested in reading more, please visit

https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2018-12/rcpch_screen_time_guide_-_final.pdf

DIARY DATES

Friday 15th March	All Day	Red Nose Day
Wednesday 27th—Friday 29th March	All Day	Flat Stan First Aid Workshops
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
Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st May	All Day	Arts Days
Wednesday 22nd May	All Day	Year 5 Trip to Bosworth Water Park
Friday 24th May	3:30pm	Treat Day End of Term
Half Term Holidays		
Monday 3rd June	All Day	INSET Day 5—School Closed for Pupils
Tuesday 4th June	8:55am	Start of Summer Term