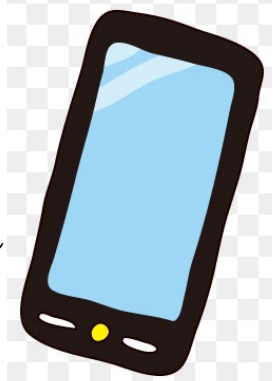


We are launching our *free* Gayton Junior School app next week. Lower School invitations will go out by text on Monday 8th April and Upper School invitations will go out on Thursday 11th April. Please have a good look around: the app will allow you to return permission slips, update your contact details and provide us with absence information. It will also allow us to send you key messages to keep you all up-to-date and there is an events calendar which you can download to your device! If you are not able to download the app for any reason, please get in touch with me via the school office. If you think we may not have had your most up-to-date contact details, please email me your details—head@gaytonj.derby.sch.uk and I will update the system for you and send out a new text invitation as soon as possible.



The girls' football team went to a football festival at Moorways at the end of March, returning back to school with an unbeaten record! They won three and drew two matches, scoring twelve goals and conceding one. Mr Kettle and Mr Butler were brimming with pride on their return to school and wished to thank parents for a great turn-out.

Mrs J Hill

Red Nose Day



Thank you for donations made for Comic Relief back in March. We raised £277.33 on the day and, following £200 made from the sale of red noses, a grand total of £477.33 - thank you!

Car Parking

We were contacted by a neighbour during our second Parents' Evening who was unable to get his car off his drive due to a car being parked slightly across it. Could we please ask you to continue to be mindful of this when attending events at school as it caused a great deal of frustration for our neighbour who was subsequently late for an appointment.



Communication



We're still sharing news and safeguarding information on Twitter too! Follow @GaytonJunior 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.

Vocabulary Development

Our April Talk for Learning activity is Rally Coach. This activity involves the children working in pairs to answer a series of questions, taking it in turns to answer and explain their method, thinking or reasoning to their partner, who will help them if they get stuck, providing them with praise and encouragement along the way!



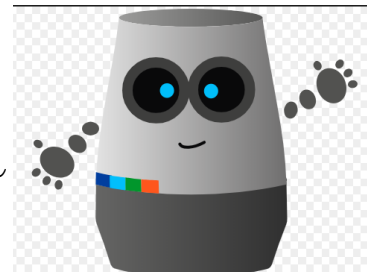
I have spent time this month visiting classrooms to see some of the new activities in action. It is great to see so many children actively involved in purposeful talk in groups or pairs so that they can all reinforce their learning and understanding of new concepts.

Remember that the Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 spelling lists from the National Curriculum can be found on our school website <http://gaytonj.derby.sch.uk/grammar-spelling-punctuation/>

We are fast approaching SATs week for our Year 6 pupils: remember that there are good spelling apps on the market for children to use! In February we told you about Bloomsbury Education's 'Let's Do Spelling' apps for iPhones and iPads and a similar app, Squeebles Spelling Test, which is available on Android. Both cost £3.99.

Safeguarding

South West Grid for Learning, lead partner of the UK Safer Internet Centre, has launched a new search engine for Key Stage 2 children to use at school and at home. Building effective online search skills in children and young people is vital in ensuring learners get to the information they need for their studies. Generic search engines are aimed at a wide audience, and are designed to service requests for anything thrown at them, inappropriate for children or not. We have filters at school to block inappropriate material, but this is something you might like to try using with your children at home.



Cycling to School



We have become aware that there are some children who are coming to school on bikes without cycle helmets. We are intending to review our Cycle Policy next term with parents and pupils, but could we please ask that you encourage your child to wear a helmet if they are cycling on roads to get to and from school in the meantime? Please also remind your child that they should not be cycling in the school grounds as this causes a danger to pedestrians on site.

DIARY DATES

Friday 12th April	3:30pm	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
Wednesday 12th June	AM	Class Photos
Friday 14th June	All Day	Science Day
Wednesday 19th June	12:15pm	Picnic Day