

12TH MARCH 2021

The staff have had a fantastic week back with their whole classes this week and it has been wonderful to hear how well the children have been settling back into their pre-Christmas routines.

Please remember that we are asking all visitors to site to wear masks and that it is **important to drop your child at school at the correct time to prevent bubbles from mixing.** If your child is late, please drop them at the main entrance so that they can report to the office to be marked in the register before they go down to class.

We have been sending out messages to parents using the app during lockdown but are aware that some parents do not have notifications set and this means they are missing important messages. Using the app to send messages is quicker and more cost effective for the school and allows us to spend more on teaching and learning, so please check to see you have the right settings on your phone so you don't miss anything more! This newsletter has been sent as a paper copy, but future newsletters will be sent via the app, so please make sure you check!

It is vitally important now that we all continue to remain cautious as restrictions are lifted. This week, along with all pupils returning to school, we are now allowed to meet one person outdoors; however, households are still not permitted to mix unless part of a support or childcare bubble. I know we're all keen to be able to meet up with family but, as a school community, we must remember that future restrictions will not be lifted as quickly if the R rate does not continue to decrease and that by mixing with others, the risk of transmission within school also increases.

Stay safe. Mrs Hill



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Rapid Flow Testing

Remember that rapid testing for COVID-19 is now being rolled out to include parents and carers of school-age children, including adults who support as part of a childcare bubble. This type of rapid testing allows for more asymptomatic COVID-19 cases to be detected and can help to break chains of transmission.

With about a third of people with coronavirus showing no symptoms and potentially spreading it without knowing, targeted, regular testing means more positive cases within households are found and can self-isolate, helping to keep educational settings as safe as possible.

Rapid testing detects cases quickly – in 30 minutes – meaning positive cases can isolate immediately and we would strongly encourage you to take part in this scheme.

Further details can be found by visiting the website below. <u>https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests</u>.

Positive results from one of these tests must be followed up by a PCR test at a testing site, booked in the normal way, and the whole household should isolate whilst you await these results.

Relationship Education & PSHE Consultation

Last week we sent out information regarding our parent/carer consultation on our Relationships Education and PSHE policy. Please remember that the deadline for sharing your views on this is Friday 19th March. Further details, along with the draft policy and supporting documents can be found on the school website.

https://gaytonj.derby.sch.uk/relationships-education-policy-and-curriculum-information/

Staff Matters

With the children all back at school, our focus this week has been to ensure that we have a Teaching Assistant supporting as part of our teaching teams in each classroom to support the children on their return to school. As you know, we said goodbye to Mrs Hans, our Class 6 Teaching Assistant at half term and we have appointed Mrs Letts on a supply basis to support Mrs Aujla and Class 6 until the end of the school year.

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Aziz who has been with us on supply working in Class 5 this year. Mrs Aziz will be replaced by our very own Miss Ashworth who completed her Teaching Assistant qualification during the first lockdown.

This week we appointed Mrs Wagstaff to fill the vacancy left by Miss Ashworth in our school office. Mrs Wagstaff joins us from Shelton Junior School and some of you may know her locally as her children attended Gayton a few years ago. I'm sure you will give her a warm welcome as soon as you are able to!

And finally, our amazing staff group got moving in February, walking, cycling, running and swimming a whopping 2363 miles and raising over £550 for Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People.

<u>Comic Relief 2021</u>

We will be raising money on Friday 19th March for Comic Relief. 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!**

<u>Facebook</u>

We sent out messages at the end of January inviting you to like our new Facebook page. If you haven't already, please like our new page to follow school news and useful links to parents - we hope this will further enhance communication between home and school, particularly during this lockdown. We started off with some great ideas to support Children's Mental Health Week and will continue to share links to activities and information which you may find useful.

https://m.facebook.com/gaytonjuniorschool/



supporting





Laptops

We were contacted by Sue Muessig, the Children and Family Worker at Newmount Church in January to ask if the school would benefit from them doing some fundraising for a laptop to support children working at home—and of course, we said yes please! We were thrilled to learn that they had exceeded their target when they arrived to donate <u>10 laptops</u> to us to loan to our children. An enormous thank you to the Newmount Community, we were overwhelmed with their generosity.



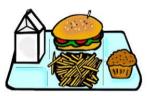
If your child borrowed a laptop during lockdown, could you please make sure it is returned to school as soon as possible, after removing anything they wish to keep and any software that may have been installed.

School Dinners

On March 15th we will be on our Week 1 menu. Don't forget that children are able to have dinners any days they wish and are still able to order sandwich bags if they would prefer. These are delivered to classrooms for the children so that they don't have to leave their bubble to get their dinners.

Week 1:

Monday—Hot Dog & Wedges Tuesday—Chicken Burger & Diced Potatoes Wednesday—Bacon Cob & Hash Browns Thursday—Jacket Potato (with cheese, beans or both!) Friday—Sandwich & Chips



Please remember that dinners and sandwich bags cost £2.20 and **must be paid for in advance**. Please contact Miss Ashworth (aashworth@gaytonj.derby.sch.uk) in the school office if you do not currently access your online account to pay dinner money and she can send log in details to you.

Free School Meals

If your circumastances have changed during the last lockdown and you think you may now be eligible for support with free school meals, please telephone the office and they will help you to make an application.

If you are a parent or carer and receive any of the benefits below, then your child is eligible for Free School Meals.

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are **not** also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross household income of no more than £16,190)
- The Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Working Tax Credit run on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Roadmap to End Lockdown

Remember that infection, hospital admission and death rates will be reviewed prior to the confirmation of each next step beginning.

