



Be the best you can be!

Newsletter 3

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It seems that now Bonfire Night has passed, things are beginning to gear up for Christmas! I love the fact that I can hear preparations for the Year 3 Christmas Production, *Merry Christmas Mr. Scrooge*, from my office and I know they're working really hard to put on a great show for their families in December. Please keep an eye out for letters home about costumes and tickets nearer the time.

Thank you to all those who attended our Parent/Carer Meetings last week. If you could not make your appointment, please contact the school office to re-arrange with your child's class teacher. We took over £1600 at the Book Fair, meaning the school receives just over £1000 of commission to spend on books for bookshelves or to read in lessons. Thank you, as always, for your support.

With Christmas looming, please make a note of the key dates on the back of this newsletter as we have lots of exciting things planned!

Mrs Hill



Vocabulary Development

This year our school development focus is on vocabulary. Your children might have already told you about Mr Kettle's Word of the Week initiative which is designed to introduce children to a range of words they might use in their written work. Examples so far this year have included 'herculean', 'cacophony' and 'inconsolable'.

This will also help children in their reading: we often find children do not have a good grasp of more formal language or words and phrases which are less frequently used nowadays like 'midday', 'bar of soap', 'vital' and 'recall'. Acquisition of a wider vocabulary is even harder for children who do not always speak English at home, so we will be working to develop ways in which we can make it easier for these children in the classroom. Of course, one of the best ways to develop a good vocabulary is wider reading—reading often and reading a range of different genres!

Mrs Orchard is also leading a new initiative in school called Talk for Learning. This will give the children more opportunities to be involved in well-structured discussions with their peers and to test out the new vocabulary they are learning. Giving children more opportunities to be actively engaged in lessons will make them more confident learners.



Holiday Clubs

Premier Sports have launched their Christmas Holiday Club. Details can be found on the school website in the Clubs section.



Safeguarding

Childline has launched a website aimed at children under the age of 12. This provides age appropriate content on topics including: bullying, family, friends, feelings, school, abuse and staying safe. It also includes games and therapeutic tools for young visitors to play and express how they are feeling. Visit <https://www.childline.org.uk/kids>

The NSPCC has released findings from a survey of almost 40,000 children and young people in the UK aged 7-16 asking them about the risks they face when using the internet. Responses to questions about livestreaming and video-chat found that: 24% of children have livestreamed - of these children 6% were asked to remove their clothes; 12% of children have video-chatted with someone they have not met face-to-face - of these children 11% were asked to remove their clothes.

As part of Childnet's work in the UK Safer Internet Centre, they have created a Hot Topics section for parents and carers. The latest one looks at Digital Wellbeing giving guidance to help you support children across different age groups. Visit <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics> and click on Digital Wellbeing.

A quick reminder from Mrs Clarke, our Learning Mentor, that parents should not be naming other children on social media apps such as Facebook. If you have any concerns regarding this, please pop into school to speak to Mrs Clarke.



Christmas Activities

Our Christmas Discos will be held on **Thursday 6th December**. The Lower School Disco, for Year 3 and 4 children, will start at 5:00pm and end at 6:15pm. The Upper School Disco, for Year 5 and 6 children, will start at 6:30pm and end at 7:45pm. All children must be collected from the discos by an adult.



Tickets cost £1 and can be purchased on a first come, first served basis each morning from **Monday 26th November between 8:45am and 8:55am in the school hall**.

Christmas Jumper Day will take place on **Friday 14th December** and is a perfect chance to get out those festive pullovers again! Children can wear their Christmas jumpers, badges or t-shirts along with their normal school uniform (no jeans or trainers please) for a £1 donation. Christmas badges will be available to purchase in the school office for £1 from **Monday 3rd December**. As usual, the funds raised will go towards paying for David's education in Kenya. We have been sponsoring David, a Maasai Tribe member, through school and college since he was 14 years old.



Healthy Snacks

Just a reminder that, at Gayton, we promote a healthy lifestyle whenever possible. For morning break we encourage children to bring healthy fresh fruit to school. We do not allow crisps, biscuits or chocolate at morning break. It is really important that children bring something to school for their snack: they need snacks to keep their busy bodies and minds going. Healthy snacking can help children to get important nutrients and provide necessary fuel for learning, sports and other activities. Making those snacks as nutritious as possible is important for the development of healthy eating habits. Thank you for your support with this.



Dinner Debts



Our current dinner debts total over £700. It is vitally important that you pay in advance for your child's school meals as otherwise the debt has to be paid out of our diminishing school budget! Please make sure you are up to date with any overdue payments as soon as possible. School dinners can be paid for weekly in advance by sending money, in a named envelope, to school with your child or by using our online system. Please contact a member of the school office if you need a log on for this service.



BBC
Children in Need

Children in Need

Thanks to all those who brought along spare change to donate to Children in Need on Friday. We raised £237.51.

Twitter

We are relaunching our Twitter page this term to try and boost communication with parents and carers. Please follow us @GaytonJunior to keep up with the latest news and reminders! Unfortunately, we will not be able to respond to Direct Messages.



DIARY DATES

Wednesday 28th November	9:30am-10:30am, 1:45pm-2:45pm and 6:00pm-7:00pm	Open Day for parents of Year 2 children.
Monday 3rd December	All day	INSET Day, school closed to pupils
Wednesday 5th December	12:15pm—1:20pm	School Christmas Dinner!
Thursday 6th December	Year 3 & 4: 5:00pm-6:15pm Year 5 & 6: 6:30pm-7:45pm	Christmas Discos
Wednesday 12th December	2pm and 6pm	Year 3 Christmas production to parents
Friday 14th December	All day	Christmas Jumper Day!
Friday 21st December	All day	Treat day End-of-term
Christmas Holidays		
Monday 7th January	8:55am	School reopens
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