

28TH JANUARY 2022

With the recent easing of restrictions, it really is beginning to feel like COVID is passing and we can finally begin to return to a more normal way of life - at the very least, not having to wear a mask when moving around the school! Hopefully whole school assemblies and face-to-face parent's evenings will be possible in the not-too-distant future.

The children continue to amaze and impress me on a daily basis and their behavior and attitude in school has been extraordinary. Our staff too, who have worked bravely and tirelessly throughout the pandemic, also deserve praise for how they have coped in these unprecedented and often very scary times.

A special congratulations to the children chosen to be this term's prefects. These children have stood out amongst their peers as model pupils whose attitude and effort, both at home and at school, are exemplary:



Year 3 - Isshaaq A  
Year 4- Layla A  
Year 5 - Fayha F  
Year 6 - Isla C

Mrs Hicks in Class 3 has shared some exciting news with her class - she's having a baby! She is due on May 4th and hopes to continue working for as long as she can until then. We are happy to announce that we have appointed Mrs Birchall to cover Class 3 for the rest of the academic year once Mrs Hicks goes on maternity. Mrs Birchall has worked a lot at Gayton over the last 2 years covering supply so is well known to the children.

Another new face around school is Mrs Oliver, who we have employed to work in year 6 to reduce group sizes and to increase teacher:pupil ratios in order to help the children catch-up from any lost learning during the lockdowns. She is already proving to be a big hit with the children and is having a big impact on their progress.

There have been a lot fewer incidents with cars and parking near the school gates this year so I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have made the effort to park a little further from school to drop your child off in the mornings and collect them after school. This has enabled children with mobility issues and staff to get to the school and has also reduced the congestion and most importantly the risk of accidents. Please continue to do this and be mindful of parking on pavements and over driveways. We are still getting a lot of children arriving very early. Can I remind you that school opens at 8:45am and that the children are unsupervised until this time. If possible, please send your child to arrive at school between 8:45 and 8:55.



Take care and please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or issues - I'm on the gate every morning or can be emailed at dodonnell@gaytonj.derby.sch.uk

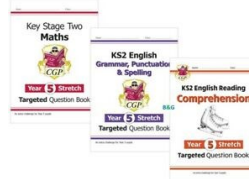
*Mr O'Donnell*

## Sponsorship Purchases

The school council have continued to spend last year's sponsorship money raised on Wanabe Day. This money has helped pay for the Bowling gold reward at the end of last term, it paid for years 3 and 5 to have a visit from ZOO LAB and to have the experience of seeing and holding a range of animals from around the world. The money has also helped to purchase the CGP Targeted Question Books for every child in the school - to help the children close the gap on lost schooling and to be the best that they can be.



## KS2 SATS YEAR 5



## Parents' Evening

We will be following local authority advice for our meetings with parents and carers after half term and **will be holding these remotely using your child's Microsoft Teams accounts.** We ran these meetings with great success in this way in the Autumn Term and teachers were happy to make phone calls if parents were not able to meet using Teams.

Please look out for letters inviting you to make an appointment coming home before the half term break.

Dates for your diary are **Monday 7th and Wednesday 9th March 2022.**



## KEY DATES 2021-22

Wednesday 2nd February	2pm	Class 10 and 11 local walk
Thursday 3rd February	2pm	Class 12 local walk
Monday 7th February	All week	Year 6 Mock SATs week
Tuesday 8th February	All day	Internet Safety Day
Friday 18th February	3:30pm	Break up for half term.
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Monday 28th February	8:55am	Back to School
Monday 7th March	3:30 - 6:00pm	Parents' evening
Wednesday 9th March	3:30 - 6:00pm	Parents' evening
Monday 21st March	All week	Year 6 Mock SATs week
Wednesday 6th April	Evening	Easter Disco (tbc)
Thursday 7th April	3:30pm	Break up for Easter holidays.
Friday 8th April	All Day	INSET Day 5 (school closed)
<b>EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>	<b>EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>	<b>EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>
Monday 25th April	8:55am	Back to School
Monday 2nd May	All day	May Day Bank Holiday (school closed)
Monday 9th—Friday 13th May	Mornings	Year 6 SATs Week
Friday 13th—Sunday 15th May	Weekend	Year 6 PGL Trip
Friday 27th May	3:30pm	Break up for half term
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Monday 6th June	8:55am	Back to School
Tuesday 21st June	tbc	Year 4 Ukulele concert (tbc)
Friday 1st July	All day	Sponsored Event. (tbc)
Monday 11th July	3:30pm	Annual reports sent home (tbc)
Thursday 14th July	Morning	Lower School Sports Day
Friday 15th July	Morning	Upper School Sports Day
Friday 22nd July	3:30pm	Break up for the summer