



Be the best you can be!

8TH JANUARY 2019

Newsletter 5

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Welcome back to a new term at Gayton! I hope you all have had a refreshing break. There are lots of things to look forward to this year, so please keep an eye out for new events as they appear on the calendar.

Our first event this term, a SPAG session for Year 3 and 4 parents and carers, will take place on Monday 21st January. Please look out for a letter home from Mr Kettle for more information.

Mrs J Hill

Parking Reminder



Our neighbouring schools are still reporting issues at school drop-off and pick-up times. Please consider our neighbours AND **the safety of children** leaving all three schools when parking—where possible, it is definitely safer to walk!

Vocabulary Development

Spellings are another key focus of our school development work this year. Mr Kettle has introduced 'Working Walls' which include weekly spellings on display in every classroom.



Look, Cover, Write, Check is a great way to help children learn weekly spellings, but this method does not suit every learning style. Why not try one or two of the activities below when learning spellings at home with your child this term?

Give your child a list of words (five, for example) and ask them to:

- ◆ Put them into alphabetical order
- ◆ Jumble the letters of one word for you to guess
- ◆ Trace one word on your hand or back for you to guess
- ◆ Rewrite the words using _ in place of the consonants/vowels

Welcome

We welcome three new Higher Level Teaching Assistants to our team this term: Mr Teladia, Mr Gopo and Mr Plaskas will be working in Classes 10, 11 and 12 until May to further support the children with their work. We know everyone will make them feel welcome!



Communication

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

Parents' Evening Questionnaire

Thank you for returning so many questionnaires about parents' evenings. Both staff and parents have a clear preference for children NOT being present in these meetings so we shall continue with this for future meetings, beginning with our meetings in March. As I explained in a previous letter, the children have regular feedback from their class teachers, which will allow for more open discussions to be had with you without children present. The results of the questionnaire, along with a summary of your comments regarding child-free meetings, are below.



Questionnaires returned = 93

I/we prefer to hold these meetings:

With my child = 27

Without my child = 63

Either = 2

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I/we were able to have a more open discussion about my child's progress.	50%	25%	12%	3%	10%
I/we felt able to ask more questions about my child.	44%	25%	18%	5%	8%
I/we felt more comfortable discussing any issues/difficulties my child was having.	46%	23%	16%	8%	7%
I/we like my child to hear what is being said in these meetings.	27%	14%	29%	26%	4%

"This was an open consultation about my child. I feel parents can always feedback to their children."

"This allows parents to ask more specific questions. I would feedback to my child with regards to progress and the overall discussion."

"We were able to speak about any issues without making my child feel uncomfortable."

"I believe that teachers have access to the children for several hours of every day. If there is something that they needed to share in regards to their progress, ability or targets, there is plenty of opportunity to do so. I feel parent teacher meetings are a very short time for teachers to touch base and discuss progress/challenges regarding the child candidly with the parent and it is important that the child's self-image or feelings do not come into the equation for this short duration. It gives the parent AND the teacher the opportunity to discuss any of their concerns or praise."

Through your responses, we are aware that this change will cause some issues regarding child care on Parents' Evenings and will aim to open the Computing Suite, managed by a Teaching Assistant, during the March Parents' Evenings where your child can wait for you if you wish. Alternatively, your child is welcome to wait for you outside the classroom.

Safeguarding

BBC Own It has launched a new 'Own It' app to help children getting their first smartphone stay safe online.

The wellbeing app provides a helping hand to young people who are starting to use social media and the internet more widely. The main aim of the app is to ensure that young people have a healthy experience in the digital world. The app will provide nudges, a helping hand and advice when the young person's behaviour changes or could be becoming risky.

As well as being able to access the app when they're looking for help, the app will run in the background to give them instant, on-screen advice and support the moment they need it. This will include:

- Analysing how messages and the use of certain words could be perceived by others before they hit send
- Tracking their mood over time – and guidance on how to improve the situation if it's needed
- Showing a message when they are about to share their mobile number on social media before they do so, and why they might want to think twice.



DIARY DATES

Monday 21st January	9:15am—10:15am	Year 3 and 4 SPAG session for Parents/Carers
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
Friday 15th March	All Day	Red Nose Day
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