

I don't think I ever thought I'd be writing a newsletter to you remotely, but life has been full of new things lately and we are slowly starting to settle into our new routines. School continues to open, even during the Easter break, to support children of key workers with childcare. One of their projects last week with Mrs Trimbee, Mrs Fletcher and Miss Ashworth was to create a #stayhomestaysafe banner that we have displayed outside school. I'm sure you are up to date with how important it is to be following that message at the moment.



The children have blown us away with how brilliantly they are coping with this change in routine while they are here during the day but please do let us know if your child is struggling still with this at home—Mrs Clarke is on hand via phone or email to support you while school is closed.

We are definitely missing the children who are currently at home: the school is really quiet throughout the day and I'm missing my visitors who come to show me how brilliantly they're doing with their learning at the moment! We can't wait for the classrooms to be full of all of your energy and enthusiasm again, ready for learning!

Mrs J Hill

Home Learning

I am sure by now you have all had the chance to use some of the resources and links we have posted on the school website. Going forward, we will produce **weekly pages** where you will be able to access the learning that teachers had planned to do with the children each week. Mr O'Donnell has produced these in the same style as a Learning Log but it is certainly not meant to be done all in one day: hopefully you can use it during each week to support what you are doing at home. Mr O'Donnell has also provided resources to support you with each task and these can all be found on the website from Monday 20th April. Please encourage your child to do some on their own if they can and do some with you or other members of the family. Please feel free to email me (head@gaytonj.derby.sch.uk) with any work your child is particularly proud of and I will happily pass it on to their class teacher—once I've had a look too!

Our top 3 things to do (and never stop doing) when you're at home:



1. **Read.** Read books, blogs, magazines, short stories, read your favourite books again, listen to stories online. Please keep reading!
2. **Talk.** Talk to each other about things. Discuss how you are feeling. Talk and laugh whilst you are playing a game with each other. Tell jokes.
3. **Exercise.** Keep active, indoors and out (within the rules, of course). Your body and mind both need to be active; one helps the other.

Free School Meal Vouchers



If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, you will be aware that a national government funded scheme has now replaced the vouchers that we initially sent out when schools closed. These vouchers are worth £15 a week and, if you have given us your email address, will be emailed directly to you, giving you the option of selecting where to spend them (current options are Sainsbury's, Tesco, Asda, Morrisons, Waitrose or M&S Food).

Please let us know if you do not receive your email this week and we will try to chase them up for you—the site is expected to be incredibly busy, particularly as schools sign up to begin with, so please bear with them!

We are acutely aware that your own circumstances may have changed since schools closed, as many families have lost income due to businesses being closed. **If you think your child may now be entitled to Free School Meals**, please check through the criteria that can be found on the next page and contact the school office between 8:30am and 3:30pm and we will take the details from you that we need to run a check.

Summer Term

This page normally contains all of the dates for the exciting things we have planned over the next few months! Hopefully we will see you all again some time during the summer term with enough time to squeeze in sports days, treat day, ukulele concerts and all of our leavers' events. However, it is especially hard for our Year 6 children as it is looking increasingly more unlikely that the Year 6 PGL trip will be going ahead—we will be in touch with parents as soon as we hear from PGL so that we can sort out refunds. This is our favourite term, especially for our Year 6 children and staff, as this is normally the term where they get to show off their creative talents in our end of year production as well as being able to celebrate all the successes they have had during their time at Gayton.



From the moment we were told schools were shutting, our Year 6 team started planning to ensure that our Year 6 children will get the leavers' party they deserve, just in case it cannot take place while they are still Gayton pupils—it is really important that we are able to mark this milestone with them, so watch this space!

Adult Support

I know many of you have great support networks and hope that you're all managing to keep in touch while you are at home. However, I know that most adults, myself included, have had days when the uncertainty of our current situation and the pressures we are all under as parents all becomes a bit too much. Please don't suffer in silence—school is still open if you need to ring and speak to one of us if you are struggling.

Alternatively, the local authority have sent out links to websites which you may find useful:

www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/#collapse1644b



[www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51873799?
fbclid=IwAR01ug03efwOBQAxTOrmm-zrte5gI7jSAHOA-
cpgM7BPADjmoqN7pRwotNE](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51873799?fbclid=IwAR01ug03efwOBQAxTOrmm-zrte5gI7jSAHOA-cpgM7BPADjmoqN7pRwotNE)

<https://www.anxietyuk.org.uk/blog/health-and-other-forms-of-anxiety-and-coronavirus/>

Is your child eligible for Free School Meals?



Be the best you can be!

Gayton Avenue
Littleover
DE23 1GA

admin@gaytonj.derby.sch.uk

01332 760372

How do I find out?

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



What to do next?

We would encourage parents to check whether they are eligible, **even if they think they may not be; or if they have applied before and been refused.** It's a quick and easy process to apply. If you would like to apply for Free School Meals, you can:

- ♦ Apply online at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/link2ict>
- ♦ Ask at the school office for details

If your application for Free School Meals is successful, Gayton Junior School will also receive Pupil Premium funding from the government to use to support your child in school.



Be the best you can be!

FREE SCHOOL MEALS APPLICATION FORM

Please read carefully. Applicants must complete all sections.

SECTION A: PERSONAL DETAILS

(Please complete in block capitals)

SURNAME_____ FIRSTNAME_____ MR/MRS/MISS/MS_____

NATIONAL INSURANCE NO._____ DATE OF BIRTH_____

ADDRESS_____

POSTCODE_____ TELEPHONE NO._____

RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD(REN) E.G. PARENT/GUARDIAN_____

SECTION B:

Please give details of your child(ren).

Child's Name	Child's Date of Birth	Name of school

Signed_____ Date_____