



Be the best you can be!

Tel: 01332 760372

Fax: 01332 764035

Headteacher:

Mrs J Hill – BA (Hons), NPQH

Email: admin@gaytonj.derby.sch.uk

Website: www.gaytonj.derby.sch.uk

Friday 3rd September

Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope you have all had a restful summer break and this letter finds you all well. Staff are busy in school preparing for the new school year and really looking forward to welcoming the children on Monday morning.

Having reviewed the DfE guidance, and taken into account the national and local pictures as they currently stand in regard to COVID infection rates, we would like to confirm our plans for the return to school this September.

The School Day

As we explained to you in July, we will be reverting to our previous start and finish times. **Doors will open at 8:45am and school begins at 8:55am; school will finish at 3:30pm for all children.** At present, there is no before and after school provision at Ridgeway, but they are hoping this may change soon. Although there is no longer an obligation to do so, please feel free to wear a mask when on site if you feel safer doing so.

Children will be able to mix with children from other classes in their year group and we will be returning to working in ability groups in Maths, Reading and Writing so that we are able to support and challenge our children most effectively over the academic year. We will be introducing a slightly staggered morning break, with Upper School and Lower School going out to play at separate times, allowing more space on the playground for a safer playtime and continuing to reduce the amount of mixing that takes place within school. Children will be able to sit with other children from their year group when having lunch in the hall.

As limiting mixing helps to prevent the spread of the infection, we will be maintaining virtual assemblies for the time being.

Further Risk-reducing Measures

Our daytime cleaning routine remains in place to ensure shared areas are regularly cleaned during the day. Children should still sanitize their hands on the way in and out of the building and when they have finished using shared equipment, such as the trim trail or IT suite. To ensure good ventilation, we will continue to leave classroom doors and windows open, making sure windows are fully open during break and lunchtimes when the classroom is empty to allow air to be replaced as much as possible. **Please make sure your child is wearing extra layers or brings something additional to put on when the weather outside is cooler.**





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Outbreak Management

In the event of a COVID outbreak, we may be advised by Public Health Derby to reinstate some or all of our previous protective measures. This decision will not be taken lightly and we will maintain communication with you throughout this period. Further details can be found in our Contingency Plan on the school website in the COVID Information section.

COVID Symptoms, Positive Tests and Isolation

Children must be kept at home and tested if they have any of the three COVID symptoms:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Anyone who tests positive must continue to stay at home for **10 days** following the start of symptoms.

Schools are no longer responsible for tracing close contacts for positive COVID-19 cases. All contact tracing will now be done by NHS Test and Trace. If your child tests positive, school may be asked to support Test and Trace in identifying close contacts. We will inform parents and carers if there is a positive case in your child's class.

Since 16th August, children under 18 and adults who have received both vaccinations no longer need to self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, but are instead encouraged to seek a PCR test. This means that children will not need to be absent from school unless they have symptoms or test positive themselves.

Please help us to stay alert by letting us know if you are sending your child to school when someone at home has tested positive for COVID-19.

Staff will continue to take lateral flow tests twice a week to help us to identify any asymptomatic cases. **Please note that these should not be used on primary aged children and are not a substitute for a PCR test if a child has symptoms.**

Holidays Abroad

Please make sure you check that you are following the most recent guidance when you are returning from abroad, specific to the country you have visited, and isolate if needed before your child returns to school. If your child will be absent from school at the start of term due to quarantining, please let us know at school by telephoning or emailing sjames@gaytonj.derby.sch.uk





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PE Kit and Footwear

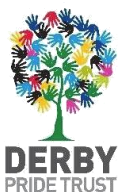
Please remember that we would like to ask children to continue to come to school wearing PE kit (t-shirt, navy sweatshirt or cardigan, navy or black tracksuit bottoms and trainers) on days when they have PE. Being ready for PE means we lose less time from PE lessons getting changed in and out of kit and means we don't have to worry about where to store their PE bags during the week.

| | Indoor PE | Outdoor PE |
|----------|-----------|------------|
| Class 1 | Thursday | Wednesday |
| Class 2 | Monday | Friday |
| Class 3 | Friday | Monday |
| Class 4 | Thursday | Monday |
| Class 5 | Thursday | Tuesday |
| Class 6 | Tuesday | Thursday |
| Class 7 | Wednesday | Tuesday |
| Class 8 | Monday | Wednesday |
| Class 9 | Monday | Tuesday |
| Class 10 | Tuesday | Monday |
| Class 11 | Friday | Thursday |
| Class 12 | Wednesday | Friday |

To ensure that the children have appropriate footwear for completing the daily mile, we asked you in the summer term to buy black trainer shoes instead of school shoes in your 'uniform shop' this summer. If you were not able to find anything suitable, please make sure your child brings their trainers to school **each day** to change into. Thank you for your support with this.

Homework

We will continue to send Learning Logs home using Teams as this proved to be popular with staff and children last year. Paper copies will still be available for children who need them.





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Changes to Vehicle Access to Uplands Ave and Gayton Ave

As part of the School Safe Haven plan, Derby City Council are planning to implement restrictions to vehicles on Uplands Avenue and Gayton Avenue. This means that vehicles cannot enter the areas leading to the school gates during drop off and pick up times (exact times to be confirmed following the consultation). The council will fine road users for unauthorised access. A new camera at the end of both streets will photograph cars entering the roads during restricted times: there will be no physical barrier. If your child is a wheelchair user or otherwise has limited mobility, the council may grant an exemption.

This is a new scheme and is currently the subject of a consultation. Please complete the consultation to share your thoughts and feelings about this change by visiting www.derby.gov.uk/yourcityyoursay

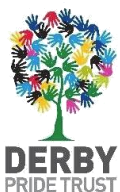
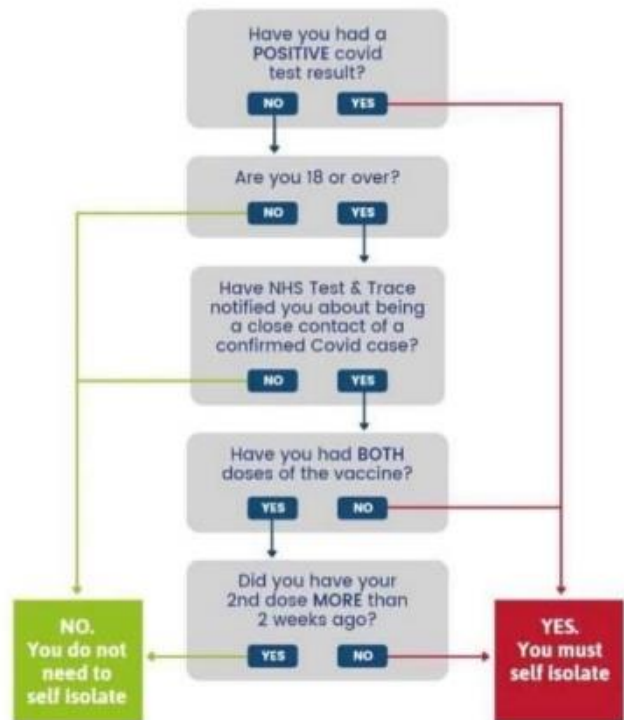
Please note that the consultation ends on Sunday 12th September so please fill it in if you have not already done so.

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday!

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J Hill
Headteacher

Do I need to self-isolate?



Artsmark Gold Award
Awarded by Arts Council England

