

Newsletter—Week 1

Gayton Avenue
Littleover
Derby
DE23 1GA
01332 760372
admin@gaytonj.derby.sch.uk

11TH SEPTEMBER 2026

A warm welcome back to you all, especially our new families who have joined us this week: we look forward to getting to know you all over the coming term. Our Year 3 staff would like to invite our new parents into classrooms straight after school on **Thursday 17th September** at 3:30pm if you can make it. Staff will be available for any quick questions and your child will be able to show you work they have completed in the first few days of term.

I will continue to send out weekly newsletters electronically on a Friday. These will be available on the app, on the school website in the newsletters section and on our Facebook page, so please look out for them. Key information about the week ahead will be included and newsletters always include key future dates for your diary.

We are still able to provide breakfast bars before school for children who may not have been able to have breakfast before they come to school. Children can come to the office when doors open to collect a breakfast bar if they wish.

Your child has brought home with them this week our Home/School Agreement. Please read through this with them, sign and return it to school as soon as possible. The agreement refers to the following school and Federation policies, which you can access using the links below on the electric version of this newsletter on the school website or by visiting the policy page on the website or the school app:

[Parent/Carer Code of Conduct](#)—Federation Policy

[Separated Parents Policy](#)—Federation Policy

[Attendance policy](#)—Federation Policy

[Behaviour Management Policy](#)—School Policy

[Homework Policy](#)—School Policy

Finally, a reminder of our policy around the wearing of jewellery. This is both for health and safety and practical reasons, as we don't want anything valuable or meaningful being lost or damaged in school or causing injury. One religious item only that can be removed for PE. Small stud earrings can be worn for PE if they have **rubber backs** on them for safety. Thank you.

Mrs J Hill

School Dinners

Next week, we will be on our new Week 1 menu. Please remember that school dinners cost £2.9 and MUST be paid for, **ONLINE, IN ADVANCE**. [Week 1 Menu](#)



Online Access

Please visit <https://gaytonj.derby.sch.uk/> and click on the blue newsletters tab to view this newsletter online for the hyperlinks!

Meet the Safeguarding Team



Mrs L Trimbee
Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Year 3 Teacher



Mrs J Hill
Designated Safeguarding Lead
Head Teacher



Mrs V Clarke
Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Learning Mentor

If you have any concerns regarding a safeguarding issue, please contact a member of our Safeguarding Team in school. We are contactable out of school hours using our safeguarding email address (safeguarding@gaytonj.derby.sch.uk). This email is monitored daily over weekends and holidays.

Year 7 Open Evenings

For our Year 6 parents who are in the process of selecting the next school for your children, we have been asked to share details of two opening evenings with you.

Littleover Community School is holding an Open Evening from 5:00-6:45pm on Tuesday 22nd September. There will also be two information sessions in the school hall at 5pm and 6pm.

Murray Park's Open Evening is from 6pm to 8pm; further information can be obtained by emailing info@murraypark.derby.sch.uk. Their event is for any Year 5 parents who also wish to attend.

Please remember that the deadline for making your applications for a school place for your child for September is Saturday 31st October.



Allergies & Healthy Snacks

We have an increasing number of children in school with severe allergies. **Due to this, it is important that we ask parents not to send in any snacks or lunch items that contain nuts—including chocolate spreads such as Nutella.**

It is lovely when children bring in sweets and treats to share their birthday celebrations with their classmates: **can you please check that these are also safe to bring into school to be shared too.**

Children are welcome to bring a healthy snack in to eat at break time such as fruit, cereal bars, yoghurt pouches, cheese strings, popcorn, etc.

Thank you for your support and understanding in helping us to keep all of our children safe.

Derbyshire Parent/Carer Voice—SEND

These sessions provide a welcoming and informal space where parent carers of children and young people with SEND can access support, ask questions, gather information, and connect with both professionals and other parent carers. They are running two sessions in Derbyshire this term. Click [here](#) for more information.

From the Office

School starts at 8:55am each morning. Please ensure your child is at school on time each day. Children do struggle when they are joining the learning once it has started in the mornings. If you know that your child is going to be late for any reason, please let the school office know so that they are able to order them a school dinner and that they can let their class teacher know when to expect them. It is also important to let the office know if your child is absent. ***This saves valuable staff time not having to chase parents and carers to see why children are missing and is very much appreciated so that dinner orders can be sent to the kitchen on time!***

To let us know if your child is going to be late or absent, please do one of the following:

- Telephone the office on 01332 760372
- Email absence@gaytonj.derby.sch.uk
- Complete the Form on the Absence Reporting function of the School App (this will also prompt you to tell us what your child would like for dinner if they are going to be late).

Please try to make all medical appointments for your child before or after school or during the holidays where you are able. If this is not possible, then the office will ask to see a copy of your appointment card, email or letter when you inform them of an appointment. Please try to ensure your child is missing as little school as possible to attend their appointment by bringing them to school first and collecting them later on in the day rather than them missing a whole morning or afternoon of learning. As parents, we understand these things can sometimes be unavoidable and tricky to organise, so we will work with you as best as we can to make sure your child is still attending school as much as possible too if they are well enough. **It is important, please, to let the office know about appointments in advance, particularly if you are going to be collecting your child early.**



School ends at 3:30pm. If you know you are going to be late, please try to inform the office, by telephone, before 3:20pm so we have time to get a message to your child/children. Where parents are consistently late, we may ask you to consider using the After School Provision at Ridgeway Infant School or one of the clubs at Gayton for your child as we do expect all children to be collected on time by an adult.

Details of the Before and After School Provision at Ridgeway Infant School can be found [here](#) on their website and is open for all Gayton children. Staff drop children at Gayton in time for school each morning and collect them from the office after school to take them to Ridgeway.



If your child needs an inhaler in school, please make sure you have brought one into the school office for them to keep in school.

Please remember that, in order to help us with our Fire Safety Audit, we have moved to a Book Bags only system in school, as communicated with you over the course of last year. This is to help stop larger bags causing coats to fall onto the floor, creating trip hazards around fire exits. Gayton Book Bags are available to purchase on your School Money account or at uniform shops in Derby or cheaper plain alternatives can be found online (e.g. Amazon). Thank you for your help with this—we have noticed that some of our *parents* have looked very smart carrying their new book bags into school this week!



Presentation

One of our areas for development over the year ahead is presentation of work. Alongside this, we will be working with children on their handwriting, including letter formation, stamina for writing and writing fluency (the speed at which they can write well without having to think too much about spelling and letter formation).

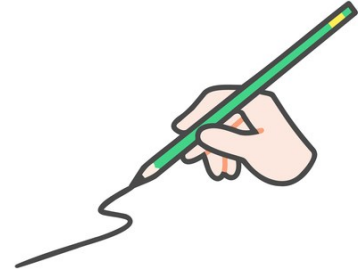
★ What is Writing Fluency

Being able to write automatically without thinking.

Ideas coming easily and being able to get ideas onto the page quickly.

Using sentences that have different lengths and structures, making the text easy and enjoyable to read.

Reduced self-criticism—allows the writer to write and fix mistakes later.



➔ How This Helps

Frees working memory—takes less thought leaving the brain free to come up with brilliant ideas for writing stories!

Children finish task more easily instead of getting stuck with spelling tricky words or completing sentences.

🏠 How You Can Help at Home

Encourage writing without constant corrections when completing homework tasks. Spelling and grammar can be checked afterwards.

Encourage children to complete tasks to a high standard, focusing on presentation.

Complete any handwriting tasks that are sent home by class teachers for support.

Practice weekly spellings daily.



We have many different approaches we will use in school, but to build on these at home, try these simple ideas:

Build vocabulary through conversation. Introduce interesting words and encourage children to use them in sentences.

Model writing. Let your child see you writing a note, email, shopping list or story, and occasionally talk aloud about how you decide what to write.

Make handwriting practice purposeful. Writing cards, labels, recipes, instructions and short messages can provide natural practice.

😊 Thank you for supporting your child's learning!

2025/26 DATES

Week beginning Monday 14th September	All Week	Swimming begins for Year 4 children
Thursday 17th September	3:30pm	Year 3 Open Classrooms
Tuesday 22nd September	All Day	Year 3 Trip to Markeaton Park—details to follow
Wednesday 23rd September	9:30-11:00am	Parent/Carer Coffee Morning—details to follow
Wednesday 7th October	AM	Individual School Photos
Friday 23rd October	3:30pm	End of Autumn 1 Term—break up for half term
Monday 2nd November	8:55am	Autumn 2 Term begins
Friday 27th November	All Day	INSET 3
Friday 18th December	3:30pm	End of Autumn 2 Term—break up for Christmas
Monday 4th January	8:55am	Spring 1 Term begins
Friday 12th February	3:30pm	End of Spring 1 Term—break up for half term
Monday 22nd February	8:55am	Spring 2 Term begins
Thursday 25th March	3:30pm	End of Spring 2 Term—break up for Easter break
Monday 12th April	8:55am	Summer 1 Term begins
Monday 3rd May	All Day	Bank Holiday—School Closed
Monday 10th May— Friday 14th May	All Week	Year 6 SATs—no authorized absences this week
Friday 28th May	3:30pm	End of Summer 1 Term—break up for half term
Monday 7th June	All Day	INSET 4
Tuesday 8th June	8:55am	Summer 2 Term begins
Friday 23rd July	3:30pm	End of Summer 2 Term—break up for Summer
Monday 26th July	All Day	INSET 5

Facebook

If you haven't already, please follow us on Facebook, where you will find our weekly round up on a Friday, online safety reminders and other useful posts.

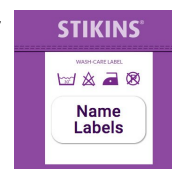
<https://www.facebook.com/gaytonjuniorschool/>



Labelling Uniform

If you haven't already, please make sure all uniform and other items your child brings to school are named: this means we can return any misplaced items back to them quickly. We already have lost property on the rails! We have teamed up with STIKINS this year, who will make donations to school for any labels purchased by parents who use the school code 7811 when purchasing stick-in labels for uniforms.

Click [here](https://stikins.co.uk) to visit the STIKINS website and place an order. <https://stikins.co.uk>





**WILL BE HOSTING THE FOLLOWING
EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN YOUR
CHILD'S SCHOOL**

**GAYTON
JUNIOR SCHOOL**

scooter Skills Mini Trampolining

**SS- MON
MT- TUE**

**FOR DATES/TIMES &
PRICES PLEASE
SEE THE BOOKING
SYSTEM**

**SCAN TO
BOOK ON**



ClassForKids.
an access company

Scoot Like a Superhero in Scooter Skills Club!

Zoom, weave, and roll your way to greatness in our fast-paced Scooter Skills Club! This club is all about building balance, control, and confidence while having loads of fun on two wheels. You'll learn to steer like a speedster, glide like a pro, and take on exciting scooter challenges—all while moving like a true superhero. So grab your helmet, hop on your scooter, and get ready to roll into action after school!

BOUNCE into Action with Mini Trampolining!

Calling all young heroes! It's time to defy gravity and take flight in our high-energy Mini Trampolining Club! Just like your favourite superheroes, you'll be leaping, flipping, and springing through the air as you build strength, balance, and confidence. With every bounce, you're powering up your super skills—so grab your cape (or comfy clothes!) and get ready to soar after school. Let's jump into fun and unlock your inner hero!

<https://j-j-sports.classforkids.io>

(Open camera on smartphone and scan QR code above)

For more information please contact 07415877925

or enquiries-jandjsports@hotmail.com

Booking is deemed an acceptance of our Terms and Conditions available on our website and booking system. *Prices include booking fee.



J&J Sports



www.jandjsports.co.uk



@j.and.j_sports