

Newsletter—Week 1

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12TH SEPTEMBER 2025

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 18th 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 hall 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

Please remember that I am still *unable* to authorise any term-time leave of absence requests this year and, in the majority of cases, these will incur fines. These requests should be made in advance and not retrospectively please.

Kind regards,

Mrs J Hill

School Dinners

Next week, we will be on our new Week 2 menu. Please remember that school dinners cost £2.80 and MUST be paid for, **ONLINE, IN ADVANCE**. [Week 2 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!

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 this year, 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 still 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—Mrs Hardisty has noticed that some of our parents have looked very smart carrying their new book bags into school this week!



Reading Fluency

One of our areas for development over the year ahead is reading fluency. Reading fluency is more than being able to read a text, it is when a child can read a text without too much energy being spent on the actual reading so that more time can be spent on understanding what is being read—this is where the learning happens!

★ What is Reading Fluency?

Put simply, reading fluency means your child can:

- * Read smoothly (not stopping too often)
- * Read at the right speed (not too fast, not too slow)
- * Read with expression (like talking, not like a robot)



➔ When children become fluent readers, they find it easier to understand and enjoy books.



How You Can Help at Home

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

- 1 Listen every day – even 10 minutes helps.
- 2 Read again – re-reading the same story builds confidence.
- 3 Read together – take turns or read a line at the same time.
- 4 Talk about the story – ask:
 - Who are the characters?
 - What happened first?
 - What might happen next?
- 5 Be positive – Praise your child and encourage them to try again.
- 6 Be a model – Let them see you reading (books, recipes, signs, anything!).



If English is not your first language

Reading in your home language is also very helpful—as well as reading school reading books.

Listening to stories in English (use audiobooks, libraries, etc.) can support fluency too.

Remember!

The most important thing is to enjoy reading together. A little every day will help your child become a confident, happy reader.

😊 Thank you for supporting your child's learning!

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 made asked to share details of two opening evenings for new parents with you. Both John Port Spencer Academy in Etwell and Murray Park School in Mickleover are holding Open Evenings on Thursday 18th September.

John Port's Open Evening is running from 4:30-7:00pm and tickets for the even can be booked [here](#) at various time slots.

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



Year 6 Height & Weight Measurement

Your child brought home a letter in the summer term about the team who will be visiting school on **Friday 26th September** to measure the height and weight of our Year 6 pupils. All results will also be noted in your child's health record, and a member of the school nursing team or your GP may contact you if they have a concern about your child's weight. All information and results will be treated confidentially - no child's height or weight measurements information will be given to school staff or other children. If there are any concerns regarding your child's height or weight, as well as a possible contact from the School Nursing team, you will be sent your child's results through the post, including information about healthy lifestyle services. If your child is assessed as being a healthy weight, you will not receive feedback but can contact your school nurse who will be happy to talk to you should you wish.

For further information, please click [here](#) where you can find tips on healthy eating and being active.

If you are happy for your child to be weighed and measured, you do not need to do anything. You should have written to the team in the summer term when you received the letter if you did not want your child to take part. ***If you did not do this at the time, we advise you to let the NCMP Team know as soon as possible by email*** You must state your child's full name, date of birth and school in your email. Children will not be made to participate if they do not want to.

2025/26 DATES

Week beginning Monday 15th September	All Week	Swimming begins for Year 3 and 4 children
Thursday 18th September	3:30pm	Year 3 Open Classrooms
Tuesday 23rd September	All Day	Year 3 Trip to Markeaton Park—details to follow
Wednesday 24th September	9:30-11:00am	Parent/Carer Coffee Morning—Device-wise Workshop—details to follow
Friday 26th September	TBC	NHS Year 6 Measures
Friday 3rd October	AM	Individual School Photos
Friday 24th October	3:30pm	Break up for Half Term Holiday
Monday 3rd November	All Day	INSET 3
Tuesday 4th November	8:55am	Autumn Term 2 Begins
Friday 19th December	3:30pm	Break up for Christmas Holiday
Monday 5th January 2026	8:55am	Spring Term 1 Begins
Thursday 12th February 2026	3:30pm	Break up for Half Term Holiday
Friday 13th February 2026	All Day	INSET 4
Monday 23rd February 2026	8:55am	Spring Term 2 Begins
Friday 27th March 2026	3:30pm	Break up for Easter Holiday
Monday 13th April 2026	8:55am	Summer Term 1 Begins
Friday 15th—Sunday 17th May 2026	TBC	Year 6 PGL Residential
Friday 22nd May 2026	3:30pm	Break up for Half Term Holiday
Monday 1st June 2026	All Day	INSET 5
Tuesday 2nd June 2026	8:55am	Summer Term 2 Begins
Thursday 23rd July 2026	3:30pm	Break up for Summer Holiday



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.

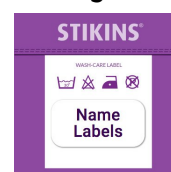
<https://www.facebook.com/gaytonjuniorschool/>



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>





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EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN YOUR
CHILD'S SCHOOL



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@j.and.j_sports



www.jandjsports.co.uk

Scooter Skills/ Football

GAYTON JUNIOR
SCHOOL

FOR DATES/TIMES &
PRICES PLEASE
SEE THE BOOKING
SYSTEM

Scooter - MON
Football- TUE

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!

Kick Off with Star Sport and Become a Football Hero!

Lace up your boots and blast onto the pitch with **Star Sport**, our lightning-fast alien hero from the stars! In our exciting **Football Club**, you'll master dribbling, passing, and goal-scoring with the speed and skill of a true superhero. Whether you're defending the goal or leading the charge in attack, every session is packed with teamwork, energy, and fun. So join Star Sport, power up your play, and let's shoot for the stars—one goal at a time!

**TO BOOK ON: PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE OR
FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW!**

<https://j&jsports.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.