



Newsletter—Week 15

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22ND DECEMBER 2023

On behalf of all of the staff at Gayton, we would like to **wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**. We hope you all enjoy some valuable time off with your families over the holidays and look forward to seeing you all when school reopens on **Tuesday 9th January 2024!** My thanks, as always, to our wonderful team of staff who always go the extra mile to make sure trips, special days and events can still run by giving up their own time for the children.

A huge **thank you** to local residents and parents who got stuck in to clear the tree that was blocking the jitty yesterday morning—a fine example of community spirit and I know the parents that battled their way over it on the school run in the morning appreciated a clear run at 3:30pm!

Thank you also to those who purchased Christmas goodies from the office to wear throughout December: over £420 was raised for Young Minds, their chosen charity for this year. A further £232.88 was raised for Save the Children on Christmas Jumper Day this week—**thank you**, again, for all of your support.

Class Attendances—Week beginning 18th December 2023

Our attendance for this term is **94.9%**. Thank you for your support with promoting good attendance in school, it is much appreciated.

Class 1	92.3%
Class 2	92.7%
Class 3	95.3%
Class 4	94.5%
Class 5	93.3%
Class 6	95.4%



Class 7	95.7%
Class 8	96.9%
Class 9	95.5%
Class 10	97.2%
Class 11	96.7%
Class 12	94.5%

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

Coffee Morning—Wednesday 10th January

Please pop our next Coffee Morning, which will be held on Wednesday, 10th January into your diaries now. The focus for our next event is SLEEP and the session will be led by Compass Changing Lives, who work across Derby and Derbyshire delivering support for children and young people. The team will look at the importance of sleep and a good sleep routine for children which I know will be helpful if, like me, you have children who are nocturnal creatures! Doors open at 9am for tea and coffee for a 9:30am start. The session should finish by 11am.



Facebook

Do you follow our Facebook page? Give us a follow to see our weekly round-up posts, newsletters, links to online safety guides and more!



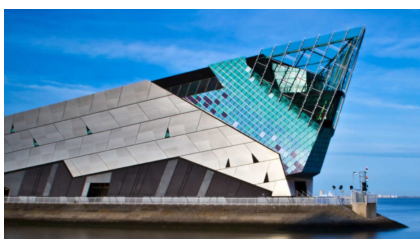
Attendance

You will know from our weekly newsletters that attendance has been a focus, not just at Gayton, but across the Federation with Ridgeway too since we returned to school following COVID. Working to reduce the number of children who are persistently absent (with attendance below 90%) is a development target of both schools this year.

Our work with the TEAM Education Trust, which I wrote and told you about last term, also allows us access to the work they are doing across the trust on raising attendance and we are excited to get involved in their Spring attendance initiative with some fantastic prizes to be won.

At the end of each week, any child with attendance over 95%, or a child who has previously had low attendance but whose attendance is improving, earns a ticket which will be entered into the end of term draw in March. There is no limit on how many tickets children can earn!

At the end of term, Sarah Baker, the Trust Chief Executive Officer (CEO), will draw out 60 winning tickets—the winning tickets could be from any school from the trust. All winning ticket holders will win the chance to spend a night sleeping at The Deep Aquarium in Hull!!



Clay Creators Club

Clay Creators will run on **WEDNESDAYS** next term, combining a Space and Wildlife theme for a 10-week block. Children will have the opportunity to create aliens, space shuttles, astronauts, UFOs and space stations as well as elephants, crocodiles, parrots and lions. Sessions will still run from 3:30-4:35pm in Class 1 and places can be booked and paid for online. **Sessions run from Wednesday 10th January but please note there is no session on Wednesday 6th March.** Click [here](#) to book.



School Dinners

After the holiday, we will be on Week 1 from our Autumn/Winter Dinner Menu. Meals cost £2.40 per day and should be paid for in advance please.

[View Menu](#)



2023-24 DATES

Monday 8th January	All Day	INSET 4
Week beginning Tuesday 9th January	Times vary	Swimming Lessons restart for Years 3 & 4
Tuesday 9th January	8:55am	Spring 1 Term begins—BACK TO SCHOOL
Wednesday 10th January	9.00-11.00am	Coffee Morning—Sleep
Wednesday 10th January	All Day	Young Voices Choir Trip
Monday 15th January	Midnight	Closing date for Y3 applications for September 2024
Tuesday 6th February	All Day	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 7th February	9.00-11.00am	Coffee Morning
Monday 12th February	TBC	Year 6 Fire Safety Talks—Derbyshire Fire Service
Friday 16th February	3:30pm	End of Spring 1 Term—BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM
HALF TERM		
Monday 26th February	8:55am	Spring 2 Term begins—BACK TO SCHOOL
Tuesday 17th February	All Day	Year 6 Lea Green Trip—Details to follow
Thursday 28th March	3:30pm	End of Spring 2 Term—BREAK UP FOR EASTER
EASTER HOLIDAYS		
Monday 15th April	8:55am	Summer 1 Term begins—BACK TO SCHOOL
Monday 6th May	All Day	May Day Bank Holiday—School Closed
Monday 13th—Thursday 16th May	Mornings	Year 6 SATs Week
Friday 24th May	3:30pm	End of Summer 1 Term—BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM
HALF TERM		
Monday 3rd June	All Day	INSET 5
Tuesday 4th June	8:55am	Summer 2 Term begins—BACK TO SCHOOL
Tuesday 23rd July	3:30pm	End of Summer 2 Term—BREAK UP FOR SUMMER



Breakfast

This week we have provided breakfast to **25** children. Children can come to the hall when doors open to collect a breakfast bar if they wish. *Please remind your children that this provision is for those that have not had access to a breakfast at home.* Thank you.

breakfast
fuel for learning

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
16+

in UK and Europe;
rest of the world 13+

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original ... and might not be entirely factual, either.

'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safely on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Carers

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval: you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except ...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



...HEY OSCAR...



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

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