

13TH JANUARY 2023

Happy New Year to all of our Gayton friends and families! We hope you all had a peaceful and relaxing break over the holidays. The children have all settled back into school brilliantly this week and it has been lovely welcoming them back.

Your child should have brought home the Curriculum Overview for their year group for the term this week, which outlines the learning the teams have planned for the coming weeks. There is a lot to look forward to in each year group.

A special congratulations to the children chosen to be this term's prefects. These children have stood out amongst their peers as model pupils whose attitude and effort at school so far this year has been exemplary:



Year 3—Fatima
Year 4—Sofia
Year 5—Billy
Year 6—Gabriela



Class Attendances—Week beginning 9th January 2023

We continue to aim for an overall attendance of 96% for the academic year. This week's overall attendance was 95.4% 😊 **Please remember that I am still unable to authorise any term-time leave of absence requests and, in the majority of cases, these will incur fines. These requests should be made in advance and not retrospectively please.**

Class 1	95.2%
Class 2	98.6%
Class 3	96.3%
Class 4	99.0%
Class 5	97.0%
Class 6	95.0%



Class 7	96.3%
Class 8	93.2%
Class 9	98.0%
Class 10	88.0%
Class 11	97.7%
Class 12	90.3%

Best wishes
Mrs J Hill

Young Voices

I was lucky enough to spend most of yesterday out at the annual Young Voices event with the school choir at the NEC. It was something I know Miss Ashworth and Mrs Clarke were planning to do just before COVID hit in 2020 so it was wonderful to be able to finally get to Birmingham with this years' choir and take part. The children had a fantastic time, joining with **6567** other children from school choirs from all over the country to perform to an audience of family and friends with supporting acts including violinist Anna Phoebe, street dance group Urban Strides, The Beatbox Collective and Heather Small, who performed alongside the children. During the afternoon, the children recorded a version of 'Proud' with Heather, which will be released as a charity single to support Place2Be, a charity who support children's mental health who will release the single to coincide with Children's Mental Health Week from 6th—12th February 2023. You can read more about the work they do to support children's mental health here <https://www.place2be.org.uk/>



Thanks to Miss Ashworth and Mrs Clarke and volunteer Laura for giving up their time to help prepare the choir, the parents who joined myself and Mrs Parsons supporting the children from the audience and, of course, the children, who did us all so proud throughout the day and the evening. We are looking forward to sharing the video of the performance with the rest of the school in assembly on Monday!

School Drop Off

Parents who are still choosing to drive right up to school to drop off in the mornings will have noticed that the Council have painted white lines in front of the residents' driveways over the holidays to remind people that they should NOT be blocking driveways when they park. Despite this, we have still had a number of complaints from residents reporting parents who are preventing our neighbours from accessing their own properties in the mornings and after school: staff have also witnessed this happening this week. Once again, I find myself having to ask you to **PLEASE** be mindful of this when you park and consider parking slightly further away from school and walking the last part of your journey. I witnessed cars fully mount the pavement in order to turn around in front of school on Wednesday AND Friday, with no attention paid to the pedestrians walking on the pavement and again, I fear, this is **AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN**. *Please consider making your new year's resolution to park a little further away from school and park and stride the last part of your journey!*



KEY DATES 2022-23

Wednesday 25th January	9:30-11:00	Inclusion Coffee Morning — Managing Behaviour & Expectations
Friday 10th February	All Day	Final Y6 PGL Payment— £40
Tuesday 14th February	All Day	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 15th February	All Day	Year 6 Trip to Lea Green— See Letter
Friday 17th February	3:30pm	End of Spring Term 1
FEBRUARY HALF TERM		
Monday 27th February	8:55am	Back to School— Spring Term 2
Monday 27th February & Wednesday 1st March	3:30pm—6:30pm	Parents' Evening
Friday 17th March	All Day	Red Nose Day —Details to Follow
Wednesday 29th March	All Day	Year 6 School Nursing Team Visit— See Letter
Wednesday 29th March	9:30-11:00	Inclusion Coffee Morning — Sensory Processing & Needs
Thursday 30th March	PM	Break up for Easter Holiday
Friday 31st March	All Day	INSET 5
EASTER HOLIDAYS		
Monday 17th April	AM	Back to School— Summer Term 1
Monday 2nd May	All Day	May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 8th May	All Day	Additional Bank Holiday— School Closed to Children
Monday 8th-Friday 12th May	Mornings	Year 6 SATs Week
Wednesday 17th May	9:30-11:00	Inclusion Coffee Morning — Transition & Summer Support
Friday 26th May	PM	Break up for Half Term
MAY HALF TERM		
Monday 5th June	AM	Back to School— Summer Term 2
Wednesday 28th June	9:30-11:00	Inclusion Coffee Morning — Internet Safety & Mental Health
Friday 21st July	PM	Break up for Summer Holiday

School Dinners

Next week, we will be on our Week 3 Dinner Menu. Dinners are £2.20 per day and children can switch between dinners and sandwiches from home daily if they wish.
<https://gaytonj.derby.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/September-2022-Menu-Gayton.pdf>



Breakfast

Letters came home today (attached) about our new breakfast offer for children in response to the current financial climate. We have noticed that a growing number of children have been arriving in school without having had breakfast and sitting hungry can have an impact on how well they are able to learn. We really hope to be able to continue this offer to our families for as long as we are able: children are welcome to pop to the hall to grab a cereal bar and fruit juice if they need to in the mornings. Initially, this will start on Monday and will run throughout January whilst we gauge an idea of take up.

breakfast
fuel for learning

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13th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Breakfast Provision for January

With the current financial climate, we are aware of some of the hardships that are being faced by our families. The impact of being hungry on children's concentration is well known and we know that hungry children struggle to learn.

In order to assist families, if you are struggling to provide breakfast for your child we will be able to provide breakfast items in school prior to registration. If they pop to the hall when they come into school at 8.45am they'll be able to pick up a breakfast bar and drink, which they will be able to eat before they register in class. We would like to make it clear that we want to aim this at families who are in need; so would ask that you only use this facility if you need it.

We are initially funding this for the remainder of January with a donation of £200 from a company called Career Teachers who provide us with temporary staff; we are very grateful to Steve Gordon and his team for their generosity.

We will hope that with the assistance of the local community we will be able to extend this initiative. We would be delighted if other organisations or community groups could also assist us with donations. If you have any funding ideas or contacts, please email Mrs Hardisty the School Business Manager (admin@gaytonj.derby.sch.uk).

Yours faithfully

The staff of Gayton Junior School

