

14TH FEBRUARY 2025

Another half term bites the dust and we're just past the half way mark for the school year. This is usually the time when the school diary starts to fill up and next half term is no different. Year 4 are off to the Space Centre in March and Mr O'Donnell is getting his history workshops back out for some hands on learning for years 3 and 5 in the run up to Easter!

We hope you all have a restful week off and look forward to seeing the children back in school ready for more learning **on Monday 24th February—doors open at 8:45am as usual.**

We have had to make the decision not to renew our Mathletics subscription when it expired in January. We had reminded the children that it was an expensive resource to keep paying for if it was not being used by many of them and it simply was not being used by many at all towards the end of last year. Like many schools, we are finally feeling the pinch of tighter budgets and so made the decision to keep our TT Rockstars subscription, as it is more popular with the children across the school and having more of an impact on learning. Please do encourage your child to make use of their login—it is paid for—and times tables knowledge does help children to access many more areas of maths than you would imagine!

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

After the holiday, we will be back to our Week 1 menu. **Please remember that we have had to increase prices for school meals by 20p per day to £2.80 per meal to cover costs which can no longer be paid for by the school budget.** A full week of dinners from this week now costs £14. Please remember that school dinners **MUST** be paid for, **ONLINE, IN ADVANCE**. **There have been some small changes to the remainder of our Autumn/Winter menu, please click [here](#) to view the full menu.**



Film Night—Wicked

Thursday 27th February in the hall
3:30-6:15pm



Tickets on sale in the hall before school from 24th February—£3 each
£1 for a bag of sweets or bring your own snack

Ramadan—March 2025

As Eid Al-Fitr approaches in March, I am conscious that some children may choose to partake in Ramadan ahead of the festival. With that in mind, I thought it pertinent to share our policy with you again ahead of the celebration.

The health and safety of our children is of paramount importance during any school day and we would not recommend that children keep a full fast as it is not a religious obligation for primary aged children to fast unless in the rare instance of them having reached maturity.

If your child wishes to fast, we would recommend that they keep a partial fast by taking breakfast as their Suhoor and lunch as their Iftar. If your child is going to be keeping a full fast then it is important that you complete this [online form](#) please so that we are aware that your child is fasting. **No child will be allowed to fast unless we have their parent's written consent.**

Ramadan Guidelines for Parents

Due to the length of time that fasting children will abstain from food and drink, we have developed these guidelines in consultation with staff and neighbouring faith schools:

- All children must have written consent from parents/carers to fast during the school day.
- All parents/carers to ensure the school has an up-to-date emergency telephone number.
- Children should eat and drink plenty at both Sahoor and Iftar.
- Children should choose to break their fast if they feel unwell or are suffering from the effects of dehydration.
- Children should eat healthily during any period of fasting and avoid sugary, highly salty and fried food where possible.
- Children should continue with and take part in PE as it is part of the National Curriculum.
- Parents/Carers should ensure that their children have a sufficient amount of sleep.

Procedures

- It is advisable for children at junior school not to fast during the school day except in the rare instance that they have reached the age of maturity.
- Parents of children wishing to fast must have completed the [online form](#) to notify school, giving their permission.
- Any fasting children that appear very unwell or appear to be suffering the effects of dehydration will be sent home. Children will also have the option to break their fast straightaway.
- Snacks should be provided by parents please – in readiness for your child choosing to break their fast during the school day due to feeling unwell.

2024/25 DATES

Monday 24th February	8:55am	Spring 2 Term starts
Monday 3rd— Friday 7th March	All Week	Book Week
Monday 3rd March & Wednesday 5th March	3:30-6:30pm	Parents' Evening Meetings
Thursday 6th March	All Day	World Book Day
Monday 10th March	All Day	Year 4 Space Centre Trip—see letter
Wednesday 12th— Friday 14th March	TBC	Year 5 Egyptian Workshops—Information to follow
Wednesday 26th— Friday 28th March	TBC	Year 3 Roman Workshops—Information to follow
Friday 4th April	All Day	Reward Day—non-uniform for all children
Friday 4th April	3:30pm	Break up for Easter Holiday
Monday 21st April	All Day	Easter Monday
Tuesday 22nd April	8:55am	Summer 1 Term starts
Monday 5th May	All Day	May Bank Holiday, school closed
Monday 12th— Thursday 15th May	All Week	Year 6 SATs Week—all children in school please
Friday 16th— Sunday 18th May	TBC	Year 6 PGL Residential
Friday 23rd May	3:30pm	Break up for May Half Term
Monday 2nd June	All Day	INSET 5
Tuesday 3rd June	8:55am	Summer 2 Term starts
Thursday 24th July	3:30pm	Break up for Summer Holiday

2025/26 DATES

Thursday 4th September	All Day	INSET 1
Friday 5th September	All Day	INSET 2
Monday 8th September	8:55am	First day back at school
Monday 3rd November	All Day	INSET 3
Friday 13th February	All Day	INSET 4
Monday 1st June	All Day	INSET 5

RSE Parental Consultation

On Wednesday we sent home letters with details of how you can contribute towards our current consultation into the way we teach Relationships Education at Gayton. More details can be found on our website by clicking [here](#), where you will also find:

- Overviews of Programmes of Study for each year group
- A draft copy of the new policy for consultation
- DfE guide for parents
- A link to the questionnaire for your feedback – **the consultation will close on Friday 14th March 2025**
- Previous consultation information

Resources will be available to view in the hall during our Parents' Evenings on Monday 3rd and Wednesday 5th March from 4:00-6:30pm and staff will be available to answer any questions you may have.

As always, thank you, in advance for your time.



RECYCLE

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CARTRIDGES**
AND RAISE
MONEY!



Recycling point in school office—please drop off your cartridges to help raise funds for school!