

6TH MARCH 2026

We've had a lovely time spending time in class as part of Book Week—thank you to Mrs Aujla and our class teachers for organizing a fun week of activities and our Book Fair. Thank you also to everyone who attended our Parents' Evenings and bought books from the Book Fair—this will help greatly with re-stocking our bookshelves and enhancing our reading curriculum. ☺

Another big thank you to everyone who helped with costumes to help us to celebrate World Book Day in school yesterday! I had some wonderful conversations on the playground at lunchtime with children about their costumes and their favourite books and characters—it really does provide great conversation starters around reading, which is such a fundamental skill!

It was great to see so many of you in school this week to meet with your child's teachers to catch up on the great progress that they have been making in school since your November meetings. If you were unable to attend for any reason, please try to catch them on the door or get in touch with the office to rearrange a time after school for a catch up so that we can make sure that we have managed to get this information to you all during the term. **For parents of children in Class 7, we will make arrangements to reschedule appointments with Mr Kettle when he returns to school from absence next week—thank you for bearing with us.**

A special congratulations to Finley, Layla, Hasan and Leila, who were chosen to be this term's prefects. These children have stood out amongst their peers as model pupils whose attitude and effort at school this term has been exemplary.



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 back to our [Week 3 menu](#). Please remember that school dinners cost £2.80 and **MUST** be paid for, **ONLINE, IN ADVANCE**



Online Safety

Thank you to everyone who has completed our online safety questionnaire for parents and carers. However, due to the low completion numbers, we have extended our deadline to the end of term, so if you haven't already, please consider spending a tea break (10-15 minutes) letting us know about your child's internet use and any concerns you have. Your responses will directly shape our online safety teaching, help us identify new risks, and ensure we provide you with the right support. The online world changes fast - by working together, we can better protect our children. Please click [here](#) to complete by the end of term.

2025/26 DATES

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| Monday 9th—Friday 13th March | All Day | Year 5 Egyptian Workshops |
| Please remember that Year 5 parents are welcome to pop into the hall after our Egyptian Workshops to see what the children have been up to! Class 9 will be doing their workshop on Wednesday 11th March; Class 8 on Thursday 12th March and Class 7 on Friday 13th March. | | |
| Friday 20th March | All Day | Comic Relief—wear a splash of red with your uniform |
| Friday 27th March | 3:30pm | Break up for Easter Holiday |
| EASTER HOLIDAY | | |
| Monday 13th April | 8:55am | Summer Term 1 Begins |
| Monday 4th May | All Day | May Day—Bank Holiday |
| Monday 11th—Friday 15th May | All Day | Year 6 SATs Week— No Authorised Absences |
| Friday 15th—Sunday 17th May | TBC | Year 6 PGL Residential |
| Friday 22nd May | 3:30pm | Break up for Half Term Holiday |
| Monday 1st June | All Day | INSET 5 |
| Tuesday 2nd June | 8:55am | Summer Term 2 Begins |
| Thursday 23rd July | 3:30pm | Break up for Summer Holiday |

Book Bags

Please remember that children should not be bringing large rucksacks or backpacks to school as we do not have space in our cloakrooms for these. **Small, flat book bags are large enough to carry everything your child needs in school each day.** An additional bag on swimming days is permitted.



Eid al-Fitr

Please remember to fill in a leave of absence form to let us know when your child will be absent to celebrate Eid with your family. This will prevent the office staff from telephoning and interrupting your celebrations to find out why your child is absent. Please use the app or email by emailing absence@gaytonj.derby.sch.uk

Our School Attendance Officer has recently directed us to inform parents that only **one day of absence may be taken on the day of each Eid celebration.** If any children are absent from school for more than one day for Eid then we have been told that additional days must be recorded as unauthorised absences. I know you all recognise the importance and value of school attendance and that we are working hard together to ensure children are in school and learning as much as possible. Similarly, the Local Authority are working hard to try and ensure that there is consistency between schools and how they are applying their own policies, alongside the Local Authority approach to attendance.

Wellbeing Session – Focusing on Anxiety



Join us for another Wellbeing session led by Nicole Woodcock (Hummingbird Hypnotherapy) A supportive and compassionate practitioner focused on parent/carer wellbeing.

What the Session Covers

- How anxiety is created,
- The role of brain chemistry and thought patterns,
- And how adopting a solution-focused mindset can help us navigate challenges more effectively.
- We'll finish with a soothing relaxation experience – so feel free to bring along your favourite cosy blanket and settle in comfortably.

Workshop Details

Date: Friday 20th March 2026

Time: 7:30pm – 9:00pm

Location: Online via Team

**For more information and to book please visit
<https://derbyshireparentforums.co.uk/>**