

24TH MARCH 2023

It is hard to believe it is only a week before the end of term! **Please remember that we break up on Thursday 30th March for our Easter break—school is CLOSED for INSET on Friday 31st March.**

We've had a busy week with lots of trips and visitors in school. We are also working hard to make sure that next year's budget can support us in continuing to provide support for all of the trips and visitors that we feel enhance our curriculum and provide memorable, hands on learning experiences for our children. However, there will always be times when we do require a contribution towards these costs from parents or we will not be able to continue to run these trips or invite these visitors into school. **If you have not paid for a recent trip or workshop, please could I ask you to send in the money as soon as you are able to so that we can balance the school budget before the end of the month?**

Similarly, I mentioned dinner money debts on a previous newsletter. I know we have had some issues with our outgoing online payment system and you will have had details today of how to log into our new system—School Money. Please can you try to clear any debt by the end of next week to avoid us having to start a new budget in deficit after Easter? Thank you for your support with this: the new budget cannot support dinner money debts going forward.

Class Attendances—Week beginning 20th March 2023—Average attendance 95.9%

Attendance has seen a slight increase again this week. We continue to aim for an overall attendance of 96% for the academic year. **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	97.3%
Class 3	91.7%
Class 4	95.8%
Class 5	94.3%
Class 6	96.3%

Class 7	97.0%
Class 8	94.7%
Class 9	96.7%
Class 10	97.3%
Class 11	96.5%
Class 12	98.0%



Best Wishes
Mrs J Hill

What Have You Done at School Today?

Have you seen our weekly round-up posts on our Facebook page yet? We also share links to National Online Safety's Wake Up Wednesday parental guides as well as other useful links for parents.

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



Inclusion Coffee Mornings

Our next Inclusion Coffee Morning, focusing on Sensory Processing Needs is on Wednesday 29th March. All parents from both Ridgeway and Gayton schools are welcome to join us if you think the topic might help you at home. Please join us at 9am for each session for a tea or coffee—all sessions will begin at 9:30am and will finish by 11am at the latest.

Wednesday 29th March—Sensory Processing & Needs—run by Fleur Roseblade, First Look SEN

Wednesday 17th May—Transition & Summer Support—run by Julie Fearn & Vicki Clarke, Learning Mentor, Gayton Junior School

Wednesday 28th June—Internet Safety & Mental Health—run by Vicki Clarke



Big Walk and Wheel

Our Big Walk and Wheel challenge continues next week until the end of term—please encourage your child/children to walk, use a wheelchair, scooter or cycle to school this week! Remember there is always the option of parking further from school and walking the last part of the journey if walking the whole way to school is not possible or practical—we will count this as a walk to school.



Children who are cycling or scooting to school should leave their scooters and bikes in the cycle shelter in the car park, preferably with a lock on them. The shelter is locked during school hours. Please make sure your child is wearing a helmet if they are using these methods of travel.

Office Plea

It is great that so many of you are thinking outside the box when it comes to providing a range of different dinners from home but I am afraid we have said before that these **MUST** come into school with your child when they arrive at the start of the day. If you want to send in warm food, that is fine—there are plenty of containers available that will keep food warm until 12:15pm when the children come in for lunch.



Free School Meal Vouchers

Please remember to redeem any free school meal vouchers provided for school holidays that you have received by email **by the date shown on the voucher**. We are not able to re-issue these as they come directly from the local authority.



School Dinners

Next week, we will be on Week 3's 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/Week-3-Menu-Spring-Summer-2023.pdf>

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

Monday 20th—Friday 31st March	Mornings and Evenings for the fortnight	Big Walk and Wheel
Wednesday 22nd March — date change	During the school day	Year 3 visits to Newmount Church—Easter Experience
Monday 27th March—Sunday 2nd April	All Week	World Autism Acceptance Week
Tuesday 28th March —date change	All Day	Reward Day—Non Uniform for all pupils
Wednesday 29th March	All Day	Year 6 School Nursing Team Visit—See Previous Letter
Wednesday 29th March	9:30-11:00am	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 1st May	All Day	May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 8th May	All Day	Additional Bank Holiday—School Closed to Children
Tuesday 9th—Tuesday 16th May	Mornings	Year 6 SATs Testing
Friday 12th—Sunday 14th May	All Weekend	Year 6 PGL Trip
Wednesday 17th May	9:30-11:00am	Inclusion Coffee Morning —Transition & Summer Support
Wednesday 17th May	All Day	Year 5 Seaside Trip—Letter to follow
Tuesday 23rd May	PM	Year 4 Ukulele Concert for Parents—Details to follow
Wednesday 24th & Thursday 25th May	All Day	Arts Days
Friday 26th May	PM	Break up for Half Term

MAY HALF TERM

Monday 5th June	AM	Back to School—Summer Term 2
Friday 16th June	TBC	Y4 Derby Arena Halle Orchestra Event
Wednesday 28th June	9:30-11:00am	Inclusion Coffee Morning —Internet Safety & Mental Health
Tuesday 4th—Thursday 6th July	All Day	City-wide Transition Days
Friday 21st July	PM	Break up for Summer Holiday

2023-24 INSET DAYS

Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th September 2023	All Day	INSETs 1 & 2
Monday 6th November 2023	All Day	INSET 3
Monday 8th January 2024	All Day	INSET 4
Monday 3rd June 2024	All Day	INSET 5



Breakfast

Numbers have risen this week and we were pleased to be able to provide breakfast to 95 children over the course of the week of breakfast provision for those who need it.

breakfast
fuel for learning



Derby City Council

Parent Information
World Autism Acceptance Week
27 March – 2 April 2023

The Social Communication and Autism Team are really excited to share a range of resources to help celebrate World Autism Acceptance Week. We feel it is so important that young people understand their diagnosis and we are passionate about Autistic people being understood by the people around them – World Autism Acceptance Week is a great opportunity to make this happen!

Video clips to help children and adults understand Autism

Making sense of your Autism Diagnosis (Secondary age appropriate)
[Making sense of your autism diagnosis - Patrick - YouTube](#)

Young People Explain Autism
[Young people explain autism | Ambitious about Autism - YouTube](#)

Inside our Autistic Minds
[BBC Two - Inside Our Autistic Minds](#)

Fast Facts About Autism for Kids
[Fast Facts About Autism For Kids \(World Autism Awareness Day\) - YouTube](#)

Fast Facts About Autism
[Fast Facts About Autism \(World Autism Awareness Day\) - YouTube](#)

Amazing Things happen by Alexander Amelines
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbwRrVw-CRo>

Amazing Kids, Amazing Things Project
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAogdfYPstU>

BBC My Autism and Me
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejpWWP1HNGQ>

We're Amazing, 1, 2, 3!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fl-Sk7_ykzU

Pablo, Talking to your child about autism
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/pablo-talking-to-your-child-about-autism>

Courses for parents
See attached flyer

Autism Myths and Facts
[Autism myths and facts | Ambitious about Autism](#)



Famous Autistic People

Lot's of people with a diagnosis of Autism are successful. Below is a list of famous people who are autistic along with what they are famous for.

- *Albert Einstein*, Theoretical Physicist.
- *Greta Thunberg*, Swedish Environmental Activist
- *Chris Packham*, English Naturalist, nature photographer, television presenter, author
- *Emily Dickinson*, American Poet
- *Jessica – Jane Applegate*, British Paralympic swimmer
- *Guy Martin*, Former British motorcycle racer and heavy vehicle mechanic
- *James Durbin*, American singer and guitarist
- *Susan Boyle*, Scottish singer
- *Ladyhawke*, New Zealand singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist
- *Tim Burton*, American film director, producer, writer and artist
- *Steve Jobs*, American business magnate, industrial design, investor, media proprietor
- *Bill Gates*, American business magnate, software developer, investor, author and philanthropist
- *Daryl Hannah*, American actress and environmental activist
- *Heather Kuzmich*, American fashion model
- *Niall Aslam*, Appeared on reality TV show Love Island
- *Anne Hegerty*, English quizzer and television personality
- *Melanie Sykes*, English television, radio presenter and model
- *Christine McGuinness*, British model

Book Recommendations

- *Life Will Never Be Dull: The Little Book of Autism Adventures*, Deborah Brownson
- *15 things they forgot to tell you about autism*, Debbie Elly
- *A normal family: Everyday adventures with our autistic Son*, Henry Normal
- *Nobody Nowhere*, Donna Williams
- *Giggle Time – Establishing the Social Connection: A Program to Develop the Communication Skills of Children with Autism*, Julia Moore
- *The little book of autism FAQs: How to talk with your child about their diagnosis and other conversations*, Davida Hartman
- *A parent's guide to autism diagnosis: what to expect and how to support your child*, Adele Devine

Louise Bieluch, Davinia Hammersley and Miriam Price ☺
Social Communication and Autism Team, STEPS



March/April 2023 issue: Parents/Carers Flyer

Social communication and autism parent/carers support groups and courses

Does your child have a new diagnosis of autism? Do you need someone to talk to?

Make an appointment with a children's centre autism champion. These sessions will give you an opportunity to talk to someone about your child's diagnosis, your thoughts and feelings and where you might go for further support and help.

Contact your nearest participating children's centre for an appointment:

- Osmaston/Allenton children's centre: 60 Cockayne Street, DE24 8XB
[Tel: 01332 715620](tel:01332715620)
- Mackworth/Morley children's centre: Reigate Drive, DE22 4EQ
[Tel: 01332 208175](tel:01332208175)
- Becket children's centre: 35 Stockbrook Street, DE22 3WR
[Tel: 01332 640250](tel:01332640250)

Online forums and social media groups

These Facebook groups share information about events, news, groups and upcoming courses in the Derby area:

- Advocates for ADHD and ASD Derby, non-profit organisation
- Autism Derby Julie Fearn
- Derby city local offer, public service
- Derby SEND information advice and support service, public service
- Derbyshire autism support group, non-profit organisation
- Fun-abil8y service, non-profit organisation
- National autistic society Derby and district branch, non-profit organisation
- Parent carers together, community organisation
- Special needs circle east midlands, non-profit organisation
- Sunshine support, non-profit organisation
- Tegan's butterflies in paradise, community
- Umbrella Derby and Derbyshire
- Intensive interaction for parents.

Information and help online

- [National autistic society \(NAS\) discussion – forum](#)
- [NAS school exclusion helpline](#)
- [NAS education tribunal support line](#)
- [NAS transition support helpline](#)
- [NAS education advice line](#)
- [Contact helpline](#)
- [Thinking autism](#)

Courses online

- [Autism introduction](#) - **FREE**
A series of short videos created by the department of clinical psychology at the royal Derby hospital including, understanding autism, living with a child with ASD, understanding and supporting emotional regulation and sensory processing integration.
- [Understanding autism](#) National Autistic Society.
- [A range of 1 hour webinars](#) covering various topics including understanding masking, eating and autism, sensory processing and autism, managing anxiety as an autistic child.
- [Understanding behaviour through the autistic lens](#) available on demand.
- [Autism and behaviour](#)
- [The ability bridge](#) - a range of on demand training
- [Using visuals to support autistic children](#)
- [Social stories workshop](#)
- [Supporting autistic learners in the secondary school classroom](#)
- [Autism and anxiety](#) includes strategies and resources.
- [Intensive interaction](#) taster courses 10 March 2023, 21 April 2023, 19 May
- [Intensive interaction](#) full day workshop 17 March 2023

Information about local and regional training events

- <https://derbyandderbyshireemotionalhealthandwellbeing.uk/training-events/other-training/autism>
- <https://www.autisminformationservice.org.uk/parent-carer-training/>
- <https://www.autismeastmidlands.org.uk/training/training-courses>

Sensory processing training

- [Autism and sensory experience](#)
- [Understanding sensory input](#) Level 1 - **FREE**, Level 2 and 3 modulation, arousal, autism and sensory strategies with resources £50.

If any of the information is incorrect or you would like to include information about a course or support group for parents of children with social communication needs or autism please contact stepsadmin@derby.gov.uk.