

26TH SEPTEMBER 2025

We've had another busy week of learning in school: Year 3 had a great day out at Markeaton Park playing in the autumn sunshine with their friends on Tuesday morning and Year 6 have spent hours putting together lots of different pieces of wood to create their own model Spitfires as part of their learning in history!

Thank you to all parents who joined us this week for our online safety Coffee Morning. It was lovely to see you there—and some new faces too. We hope you got some useful information from the session to help you at home. At the back of this newsletter you will find some of the resources from the session that Mrs Clarke thought you all might find useful, including how to host an online games night at home and ways in which you can begin engaging with children about online safety and having those important, regular conversations at home.

We have given Mrs Gallagher a good Gayton send off today as she begins her maternity leave. We look forward to hearing her baby news soon! Mrs Costema is looking forward to taking over teaching duties in Class 13 in the mornings while Mrs Gallagher is away.

Kind regards,
Mrs J Hill



Travelling to and from school

Walking Alone

We have had a few questions in the office about children walking to and from school by themselves so thought we would share with you some advice that may help in making this decision as there is no 'rule' as such around this. We do suggest that walking to school alone or with friends is something that children only do **when you feel they are able to and if you are confident their route to school is safe**. We do ask that parents ensure their children know what to do if there is no one at home as expected when they arrive after school—how to get in, who to call, etc. **ALL CHILDREN MUST BE COLLECTED FROM AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS FROM OCTOBER—MARCH PLEASE WHEN EVENINGS ARE DARKER.**

Mobile Phones

As we are aware that many children live within a short walk of school and that, particularly our Year 6 parents may want their children to walk to and from school in preparation for secondary school next September, we introduced a [Pupil Mobile Phone Policy](#) to allow children to bring a mobile phone to school so that they can let their parents know they have arrived safely in school. This is **not essential**—we do not **insist** that children do this—you do not have to go out and buy a phone for your child! Please request a permission form from your child's class teacher or the school office before your child brings a mobile phone into school.



Cycling



Governors have agreed a [school policy](#) that only children who have completed Level 2 Cycling Proficiency can cycle to school alone. Level 1 and 2 training is delivered to Year 5 children free of charge by Cycle Derby in the summer term. All children are welcome to cycle or scoot with an adult and use the school cycle shelter. **We do insist that children who cycle to school on roads wear a helmet please.**

2025/26 DATES

Friday 3rd October	AM	Individual School Photos
Friday 24th October	3:30pm	Break up for Half Term Holiday
Friday 31st October	Midnight	Deadline for secondary school applications for 2026
Monday 3rd November	All Day	INSET 3
Tuesday 4th November	8:55am	Autumn Term 2 Begins
Friday 19th December	3:30pm	Break up for Christmas Holiday
Monday 5th January 2026	8:55am	Spring Term 1 Begins
Thursday 12th February 2026	3:30pm	Break up for Half Term Holiday
Friday 13th February 2026	All Day	INSET 4
Monday 23rd February 2026	8:55am	Spring Term 2 Begins
Friday 27th March 2026	3:30pm	Break up for Easter Holiday
Monday 13th April 2026	8:55am	Summer Term 1 Begins
Friday 15th—Sunday 17th May 2026	TBC	Year 6 PGL Residential
Friday 22nd May 2026	3:30pm	Break up for Half Term Holiday
Monday 1st June 2026	All Day	INSET 5
Tuesday 2nd June 2026	8:55am	Summer Term 2 Begins
Thursday 23rd July 2026	3:30pm	Break up for Summer Holiday

School Photos

Next week, on Friday, the photographer is in school to take individual school photographs of your child. During the morning, older children will also collect younger siblings in school for sibling group photographs and these will be sent home as a purchase option. If you have other children at home that you would like to include in a group photograph, please pop up to school for 8:30am on Friday 3rd October and the photographer will take family group shots before school for you.



If your child has PE on Friday, please send them to school in normal school uniform on their top half and PE kit (jogging bottoms) and trainers on their bottom half!

School Dinners

Next week, we will be back to our Week 1 menu. Please remember that school dinners cost £2.80 and MUST be paid for, **ONLINE, IN ADVANCE**. [Week 1 Menu](#)



Facebook

If you haven't already, please follow us on Facebook, where you will find our weekly round up on a Friday, online safety reminders and other useful posts.

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





Host an online games night



Talking to your child about what they're doing online is an important tool in helping to keep them safe. Having an activity to do together can be a good way to get it started!

G

Get to know the platform by challenging your child to a game on their favourite platform. Create your own account and explore the game yourself. This will help you understand the different tools and settings available and what your child sees and experiences.

A

Ask open questions to give your child an opportunity to talk about why they enjoy gaming and show you what they already know about online safety. Take a break from the game and find a comfy spot. To get the conversation started, try out the LEGO® Build & Talk activities that includes conversation starters to help you and your child get the conversation going while being creative.

M

Master the basics together and explore how to report and block other players on the platform, how you can leave a game, and ways to safely set up group play. Remind them they can come to you if they see anything that upsets or worries them.

E

Explore privacy and safety settings and decide which ones are appropriate to use. You might want to look at the platform or gaming provider's websites for more information on what's available.

Visit NSPCC for more advice and tips for keeping children safe: nspcc.org.uk or search 'NSPCC online safety'



Scan for
more info:



Our story-style Build & Talk activities, created for children ages 6 to 9, support families with a playful way to engage in otherwise difficult conversations about digital safety topics while playing with LEGO® bricks.

You'll also find handy discussion starters to get the conversation going as you Build & Talk together.

