

16TH OCTOBER 2026

The autumn weather is definitely upon us and the darker evenings are drawing in. Please make sure you are sending children to school with coats on each morning—this means we can get the children outside at lunch even if it is drizzling slightly.

Thank you to all of our Year 5 parents and carers who popped into the hall this week to see what your children had been getting up to during their Stone Age to Iron Age Workshops. Huge thank you to Mr O'Donnell and Mr Costema for running three memorable workshops again for the children. It was wonderful to see so many of you being shown around by your children at the end of the school day!

I know that, particularly on wet mornings, like Tuesday, the urge to drive right up to school is bigger than usual, but this makes conditions outside school even more dangerous as the vision of people walking on foot is often obscured by hoods and umbrellas. A number of cars this week have been spotted at the end of Gayton Avenue having near misses with children and families walking on the pavements and also blocking driveways of our neighbours. **Please consider parking a little further from school and walking the last part of your journey to help to keep everyone safe.**

Our football teams have been in action once again this week, representing the school well. The boys' team played two games against Bemrose Primary School on Tuesday evening, winning the first game 2-1 and the second game a convincing 6-2 victory (with a hat trick from Jonah). Well done boys, your season has got off to a flying start! The girls were also in action again on Thursday evening against Alvaston Junior School. They also won both games: a 3-1 win in the first match and a 1-0 win in the second. Great work ladies! ☺

Please look out for an email from the School Nursing Team with details of how to sign your child up for this winter's flu vaccination. **They will be in school on Friday 13th November to administer these.** In most cases, these are nasal sprays but the team can administer an injection if a vaccine without animal products is preferred.

Tickets for the Halloween Disco on **Thursday 22nd October** remain on **sale on Monday in the hall before school, or online on School Money, and cost £2 each.**

Tickets for our Family Bonfire Bingo Night on Thursday 5th November remain on sale on School Money—please see the advert on page 3 for more information. If you are interested in helping with the event, or finding out more about how you can help us re-launch our PTA, please get in touch with [Mrs Clarke](#) here at school and she will get back to you as soon as she can!

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 on our new Week 3 menu. Please remember that school dinners cost **£2.90** and **MUST** be paid for, **ONLINE, IN ADVANCE.** [Week 3 Menu](#)



2026/27 DATES

Thursday 22nd October & Friday 23rd October	All Day	Reward Days— non uniform both days for all
Friday 23rd October	3:30pm	End of Autumn 1 Term—break up for half term
Saturday 31st October	Deadline for Secondary School applications for September 2027 for Y6 Parents	
Monday 2nd November	8:55am	Autumn 2 Term begins
Thursday 5th November	5:30pm onwards	Bonfire Bingo—Tickets only via School Money
Friday 27th November	All Day	INSET 3
Friday 18th December	3:30pm	End of Autumn 2 Term—break up for Christmas
Monday 4th January	8:55am	Spring 1 Term begins
Friday 12th February	3:30pm	End of Spring 1 Term—break up for half term
Monday 22nd February	8:55am	Spring 2 Term begins
Thursday 25th March	3:30pm	End of Spring 2 Term—break up for Easter break
Monday 12th April	8:55am	Summer 1 Term begins
Monday 3rd May	All Day	Bank Holiday—School Closed
Monday 10th May— Friday 14th May	All Week	Year 6 SATs—no authorised absences this week
Friday 28th May	3:30pm	End of Summer 1 Term—break up for half term
Monday 7th June	All Day	INSET 4
Tuesday 8th June	8:55am	Summer 2 Term begins
Friday 23rd July	3:30pm	End of Summer 2 Term—break up for Summer
Monday 26th July	All Day	INSET 5

Halloween Discos

We will be holding our Halloween Discos again this year, as they continue to be a popular request of the School Council! There will be two discos—one for Lower School (years 3 and 4) and one for Upper School (years 5 and 6) on **Thursday 22nd October**. Children are welcome to dress up if they wish! Children **MUST** be collected by an adult please as the nights will be dark by then.



The Lower School Disco will run from 5pm until 6:15pm and the Upper School Disco will run from 6:30pm until 7:45pm. Tickets are on sale (£2 per ticket) in the hall when doors open each morning or using your School Money account and there will be enough tickets for everyone, so please don't worry. There will be a tuck shop open on the night where children can buy sweets and drinks if they wish—they will need no more than £1 for this!

Reward Days

At the request of the School Council, longer sessions for the gold reward of Glow in the dark Dodgeball have been booked, meaning our Reward Days next week will take place on **Thursday AND Friday**. Children can wear non-uniform (suitable for the activity) on both days.

Gayton Junior School
Families

BONFIRE BINGO NIGHT

Thursday 5th November 2026

★ Doors open at 5:30pm
for a 6pm start ★

★ Tickets are limited! ★
£1 per person

Purchase via your School Money account.

Hotdogs

(including veggie
sausages)

£2.50 each

Pre-order using your
School Money account.

Bingo cards & dabbers

£3 per book
of Bingo cards
(6 games)

£1 per dabber

Available to
buy on the night.



Small sweet stall



**Cold drinks
available
too!**



Come along for a
great night of
family fun!

Tea available to buy while you play
(please pre-order hotdogs)