

Newsletter—Week 7

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23RD OCTOBER 2026

Thank you to everyone who has attended their meetings with class teachers this week: staff appreciate you attending to discuss the start your children have made to the year in school and being able to work together to support children in being the best that they can be. Thank you also to everyone who supported the school by purchasing books from the Book Fair—all purchases generate commission for the school to spend on replenishing our bookshelves or books for reading lessons, which is greatly appreciated.

We are saying goodbye and thank you to Miss El Houdaigui from our Office Team today as she leaves us for pastures new. Mrs Jackson will be joining the team from next half term.

Thank you for bearing with us whilst we have been unable to use the main entrance for the last 10 days. Whilst a long-term repair may take a while, we are thankful to the Council that a temporary solution will be installed next week ready for use when we return to school on **MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER.**

Our football teams have been in action once again this week, with more successes to report! The boys' team played two games against Cherry Tree Hill Primary School on Tuesday evening, winning the first game 3-0 and the second game a 2-0 victory (no hat tricks to report this week!).

Complimenting their Paul Cummins art unit, our Year 6 children have been busy decorating wooden poppies to form part of the 300 poppies that will be installed at the bottom of Carlisle Avenue (near the junction with The Hollow) as part of a joint project with local community group Carlisle Against Crime and The Museum of Making. The museum provided the poppies and asked local schools to support with the decoration. **Please see the information on page 5 if you would like to visit the display or attend the Remembrance Event on 7th November.**

We sent our new dinner menus home today with your children: these will also be available online on the school website and on the app if you are signed up to it.

We still have some tickets remaining 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! **All children must be accompanied by an adult for this event please.**

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.

Have a lovely half term break: the children have all been working incredibly hard and have definitely earned a week off to recharge! We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 2nd November—doors open at 8:45am.

Kind regards,

Mrs J Hill

2026/27 DATES		
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**
Monday 2nd—Thursday 5th November	All Day	Book Week
Thursday 5th November	5:30pm onwards	Bonfire Bingo—Tickets only via School Money
Friday 6th November	All Day	Diwali Day (see front page)
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

Diwali Day

On Friday 6th November, we will be holding a Sikh and Hindu Diwali celebration day in school to celebrate the upcoming festival of Diwali (Bandi Chhor Divas). The children will have the chance to participate in a range of activities related to the way in which people from Hindu and Sikh faiths celebrate Diwali, such as making a diya (diva) lamp. We would love the children of Hindu and Sikh faith to wear or bring their own traditional clothing to show.

On the day, each child will be given a battery powered tea light to bring home to use with their diya (diva) lamp. Year 6 children will take part in a drumming workshop provided by staff and pupils from St. Martin's school which links with their current World Rhythms learning in Music lessons. **Year 4 and 5 children will need to wear their PE kits for the a dance workshop.**

As well as being lots of fun, we hope that the day will broaden pupils' awareness and understanding of other cultures and religions.

School Dinners

Remember that, when we come back to school, we will be on our **new** Week 1 Menu !

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)

EHCP DEMYSTIFIED

DERBYSHIRE PARENT CARER VOICE

Understanding Education, Health and Care Plans with DIASS

Thursday 5 November

10:00am



Are you confused by EHCP terminology, processes or paperwork? Join Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice for a new information session facilitated by DIASS (Derbyshire Information, Advice and Support Service), designed to help parent carers better understand Education, Health and Care Plans.

This session will help you:

- Understand what an EHCP is and who it is for
- Learn more about the EHCP process
- Gain confidence in navigating your EHCP journey
- Find out where to access information and support
- Ask questions in a supportive environment

Whether you are considering requesting an EHCP, currently going through the process, or already have a plan in place, this session is for you.

To book your place please visit https://derbyshireparentforums.co.uk/

Everyone is welcome.

Remembrance

INVITATION

Your child has taken part in decorating 1 of 300 bespoke poppies as part of a project with local community group Carlisle Against Crime and Derby Museum of Making.

Carlisle Against Crime create a fantastic Remembrance display at the bottom of Carlisle Avenue each year.

This year, they worked with Derby Museum of Making to create 300 wooden poppies that will form part of the display and your child has played a part in creating the display.

Carlisle Against Crime would like to invite your child and family to their Remembrance event on

Saturday 7th November at 10:15am,

where you will be able to see the wonderful display and your child's contribution.

Bottom of Carlisle Avenue
DE23 3ET

We hope to see you there.



HALF TERM
LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOP

27 October to 1 November

Derby Market Hall-Quad
Chinese Centre - Indian Community centre

Ticket £5

Make your own eco-friendly Lantern using willow & tissue paper & join our Lantern Parade.

All welcome. Under 7 must be accompanied by an adult. To book scan QR code

DERBY SEASON OF LIGHT

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GREENE KING · D.C.W.A · SURTAL ARTS · Elvaston Castle and Gardens Trust · Derby Market Hall · Derby City Coun · Foundation Derbyshire · cosy Foundation