

Tuesday 5th September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school at the start of a new academic year. We hope you have had an enjoyable summer break.

Dates for Your Diary:

We will hold parents information evenings this week and next. The purpose of these information evenings is for you to meet your child's new class teacher and learn about classroom routines, for example routines for changing reading books, days when children will have their PE lessons etc.

Information evenings, which will last approximately 30 minutes, will take place immediately at the end of the school day. Children are welcome to attend. For those of you who are unable to attend, any information given out will be sent home with your child.

We did send these dates out in the newsletter at the end of last term. They are:

Year 1 - Thursday 7th September

Year's 5 and 6 – Friday 8th September

Year's 2 and 4 – Monday 11th September

Year 3 – Wednesday 13th September

Parents of children who have started in Reception Class received this information when they met with Mrs Gill at the end of last term.

Tuesday 12th September to Friday 15th September – Year 5 and 6 residential to Whitby.

w/c Monday 11th September – Team building week. During this week classes will build a scarecrow in preparation for the Ossett Scarecrow Competition.

Wednesday 20th September – Mrs Gill will deliver a short workshop to parents of children in Reception Class about how writing and phonics are taught. Mrs Gill will also explain how you can help your child at home with their writing. This will start at 2:30pm.

Friday 22nd September – Academy Council members and Academy Captains to be announced in Celebration Assembly.

Wednesday 27th September – Mrs Dearnley will deliver a short workshop to parents of children in Reception Class about how reading is taught. Mrs Dearnley will also explain how you can help your child at home with their reading. This will start at 2:30pm.

Saturday 30th September – Ossett Scarecrow Festival, to be held in Ossett Town Centre.

Monday 2nd October – Intra school sports competition.



Wednesday 4th October – Mrs Gill will deliver a short workshop to parents of children in Reception Class about how maths is taught. Mrs Gill will also explain how you can help your child with maths at home. This will start at 2:30pm.

Tuesday 10th October – Year 4 visit to Eureka as part of their topic about the digestive system.

Tuesday 10th October – Year 1 INSPIRE morning. This will start at 9:15am.

Tuesday 10th October – Reception Class INSPIRE afternoon. This will start at 1:30pm.

For Reception parents who are new to Gawthorpe we hold our INSPIRE mornings/afternoons in class annually. We ask that an adult (either a parent, grandparent, relative or family friend) come along to this session in order to work with children on a 1:1 basis. We know from feedback that parents and children greatly value INSPIRE events.

Wednesday 11th October – Year 3 visit to Croft House.

Tuesday 17th October – Nursery walk around the local area.

Wednesday 18th October – Harvest Festival to start at 9am. Parents, relatives and family friends all welcome.

Friday 20th October – Individual and family photographs. No celebration assembly this day.

Friday 20th October – Break up for the October half term holiday. We return to school on Monday 30th October.

w/c 30th October – Parent/Teacher open evening week.

Tuesday 31st October – Open morning across the academy. You are invited to come into school on this morning and observe how your child is taught literacy.

Celebration Assembly

We hold our celebration assembly each Friday. Parents are invited along. We do ask that you bring your child into the playground in the usual way before signing in for celebration assembly. Please use the front door to do this. Following our weekly assembly, a coffee morning will be held. Mrs Pyrah and Mrs Underhill serve coffee in the Maypole Centre. All are welcome.

Attendance

We cannot stress enough the importance of good school attendance.

We do acknowledge that you can get cheaper deals when you take holidays in term time but before you take one or more of these holidays please consider the impact on your child.

Parents sometimes tell us “My child is only young so it doesn’t matter too much”. This is incorrect. When children are at the start of their school lives learning to read and write, just missing one week of school can have a significant impact.

Please find attached to this letter a leaflet which explains the importance of good school attendance.

Also attached are the holiday dates for this year. Please remember the second week of our two week Spring Bank holiday is often cheaper because the majority of schools are not on their holidays this week. These documents are also available on our website.

As from this year a new attendance policy has been introduced, which we expect to be approved by Governors tonight. This will be sent out to you later this week.

Complaints Policy

Our Complaints policy has been updated and is available on our website under policies.

<http://gawthorpeacademy.co.uk/policies>

Whitby Residential

Next week our Year 5 and Year 6 annual residential visit takes place. We are all looking forward to our four days away. Although we do not allow children to take mobile phones, we will send daily updates and photos and try to update our twitter feed as much as possible. To receive updates you must ensure your email address and mobile phone number are up to date with the office.

1K a Day

Miss Sidebottom will be continuing the 1k a day change 4 life programme and invites parents, staff, friends of the school and children to join her again. This can be to walk, jog or run 1k a day to exercise the body and mind in a safe controlled way. This will take place in the top playground every morning from 8:30am onwards starting Monday 12th September. **All children and adults must come into school through the bottom gate whether or not they are taking part.** The first morning back will be to sign up and set goals. Miss Sidebottom will blow the whistle at the end of the session, children will line up and come in from there. Mrs Clark will still blow the whistle as normal.

Anyone taking part can earn milestone badges for attending a certain number of sessions.

Children are welcome to wear their trainers but they must bring their usual school shoes to change into.

Data Collection

Miss Sidebottom is collecting information on any outside clubs your child attends such as sports clubs, swimming, brownies etc. Please either complete the reply slip your child brings home today or e mail Miss Sidebottom on dsidebottom@gawthorpeacademy.co.uk to advise the name of the club and how long they have attended.

Become a Parent Governor

We are looking for parents to join our Governing Body. Your input on issues such as finance, site management and curriculum development will help to influence and improve school performance. Governors support the school in a variety of ways in addition to attending governing body meetings. It is a very important and worthwhile job! You do not need special skills or experience, but you should be interested and willing to become involved.

Being a governor is an enormously challenging and rewarding opportunity. The personal benefits can be summarised as:

- A sense of satisfaction through knowing children will benefit from your efforts
- The opportunity to develop new skills and to strengthen existing ones
- The opportunity to work with people from a variety of social, cultural and religious backgrounds
- The opportunity to gain understanding in key areas such as finance, personnel, and strategic planning
- The opportunity to gain awareness of the education system as a whole

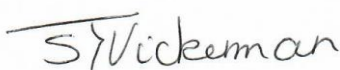
Find out more about school governors at www.becomeagovernor.com

If you are interested then please ask at reception for details and a nomination form. The closing date for this round of nominations is Friday 22nd September 2017.

We very much look forward to working with you over the course of this academic year.

Regards,

The Leadership Team



Mrs S J Vickerman
Executive Principal



Mrs A M Mitchell
Head of School



Mrs P Clark
Deputy Head of School

Who to contact in case of absence

If your child is absent please contact school either in person or by telephone as soon as possible on the first day of absence.

The telephone number is 01924 679680.

Education Welfare Officer is currently Mrs Emma Pinder.

Gawthorpe Community Academy

High Street, Gawthorpe

WF5 9QP

01924 679680

enquiries@gawthorpeacademy.co.uk

Gawthorpe Community Academy

Attendance Matters

Working Together



Why is good attendance and punctuality so important? The Facts

- Taking 10 days absence for family holidays in an academic year means that the maximum attendance your child can achieve is 94.7%.
- Gawthorpe academy expects that **ALL** children will achieve a minimum of 95% attendance regardless of their year group. Every stage of a child's education is of equal importance.
- Regular attendance at school is a legal requirement and it is vital if your child is to benefit fully from their education.
- Any absence can disrupt your child's education – whether through illness or holidays in term time.
- Everyday your child is absent they miss important lessons (summer born children already have 2 full terms less than autumn born children).
- It is very easy to fall behind with work, but very difficult to catch up.
- Having an education will give your child the best possible start in life.
- Two weeks absence means your child loses 60 hours of learning which they can never get back. Your child could miss a whole topic which will not be revisited.
- A two week holiday during term time every year of your child's life equals almost 2 full terms of education missed over their whole school career.
- Friendships suffer – during 2 weeks' absence social groups change. Your child may not fit back into the same friendship group on his/her return.

Parents Responsibilities

As a parent, you have a legal responsibility to ensure that your child attends school regularly.

You must make sure that your child-

- Arrives at school on time.
- Attends regularly.

Please make sure your child leaves home on time. If travelling any distance please allow ample time for traffic or other delays.

The door opens at 8:45a.m. Morning registration begins at 8:50a.m. and closes at 9:00a.m. Children who are not registered in class by 9:00a.m. will be marked as unauthorized absence in the register and must sign a late-comers slip in the main office.

If your child is absent from school please:

As early as you can on the first day of absence telephone the academy on 01924 302975 or call at the academy reception or inform the teacher in person.

Or

When your child returns to school please send a signed/dated note which gives the reason for the absence.

The local authority's policy not to authorize holidays during term time has been adopted by the academy. Government advises that you should not take your child out of school for family holidays during term time. The regulations make it clear that parents have no right or entitlement to take their children out of school for family holidays.

Please try to arrange doctors/dentist/hospital appointments out of school hours.

School Responsibilities

- To work with parents to encourage regular attendance and punctuality of their child.
- A record of attendance must be kept giving the exact reason for the child's absence.
- If no reason is provided by parents (by telephone, in person, in writing) the absence will be recorded as unauthorized (DfES class this as truancy) and will remain on the child's record.
- If your child is absent, it may be that school will contact you to establish the reason for the absence.
- The school will promote and encourage good attendance via its reward system.
- The school and Education Welfare Officer will conduct attendance checks throughout each half term.
- Children with poor attendance records and lateness will be monitored and followed up by the academy and / or Education Welfare Officer. In extreme cases excess absence could lead to official warnings or even prosecution and fines. This information can be transferred to the High Schools.

Gawthorpe Community Academy

2017-2018 School Calendar

September 2017						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2017						
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29	30	31				

November 2017						
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December 2017						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 2018						
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28	29	30	31			

February 2018						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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March 2018						
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April 2018						
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29	30					

May 2018						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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27	28	29	30	31		

June 2018						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 2018						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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29	30	31				

August 2018						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Bank Holidays



School Holidays



INSET Days



Closure Day for Building Work



Nursery Closure Dates for Home Visits