



## Are you having a clear out? Can you help?

We currently have a small area in school which children are using at breaktime to play with sticks/wood etc. It has inherited the name 'the Stick Area' as that is mainly what is in there. We are looking to add additional items to this area to help develop it further. If you have any additional items that would enhance play in this area, please could you contact school or me (nicolaheron@gatedu.org) and let us know what you have available. Please don't just drop them off as we have limited storage at the best of times and I will not be popular if a ton of stuff turns up. Examples to build with could be blocks of wood, guttering, astro-turf cut offs, old sheets for making dens etc. Examples to enhance play could be metal pots, pans, spoons, utensils, watering cans. Suitable boxes to store some of these items in might also be helpful. Thank you, Mrs Heron

## PE Days

Nursery – Tuesday  
 Reception – Tuesday  
 Year 1 – Tuesday and Thursday  
 Year 2 – Monday and Tuesday  
 Year 3 – Thursday and Friday  
 Year 4 – Tuesday and Wednesday  
 Year 5 – Monday and Tuesday (Swimming)  
 Year 6 – Wednesday and Friday



## Nursery – SG – Saint George

Greetings from Nursery. We have had a wonderful start to the Spring Term. Just a reminder that PE is now on Tuesday mornings and we have started our first yoga session with Kalma Life yoga.

## Reception – GD – Grace Darling

Hello at home. We have had a lot of children coming to Reception with very large toys, blankets and bags of sweets in their school bags. As we move closer to the transition into year 1, can you please try and keep all the above at home now. If this causes an issue, please come and see me. All children have been given a new set of Harder to Read and Spell words (HRS words). Can you practice these as much as possible at home. We will assess your child in class and when they are confident with this set, they will receive a special certificate and a new set of HRS words to bring home. **Show and Tell** - We are starting 'Show and Tell' this term on a Friday afternoon. Your child can bring something special from home to show to the rest of the class. **NO large toys please.**

## Year 1 – TY – Thomas Young and Year 2 - FN – Florence Nightingale

**School dinners** – Thank you for sharing the [daily lunch menu](#) with your child – this link will take you straight to the menu choices should you not yet have done so or feel it might be a good idea to look again. Despite our best efforts, we are still having issues around school lunches. Some children are still finding it difficult to make choices about what they would like to eat. Staff can regularly be told 'I don't like any of the choices'. If this is the case, please can we ask you to look at the menu together with your children and if there really are no options they like, opt to provide a packed lunch for that day, or request a school packed lunch. The kitchen staff have also mentioned that some children are refusing their selected food choice when it is given to them due to not liking one aspect of the meal. Items making up each meal are set by Gateshead Council, so in school we encourage the children to try new foods, but will never say they 'must' eat something. It would be helpful if when looking at the menus, you reassure your child that even if the cook adds a few 'carrots' to their plate, nobody is going to do anything other than encourage them to try said 'carrot'. Many thanks for your support on this matter, KS1 staff.

## Year 3 – MLK Martin Luther King

A reminder that forest school continues next Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> of January – thank you! 😊

## Year 4 – FWD – Fredrick William Dobson

Year 4 have forest school again next Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> and the following Friday 31<sup>st</sup>. Please make sure your child has warm clothing with layers ready to take on the cold plus a waterproof coat / sensible footwear / gloves / hat etc. We will be going in the morning so ensure a change of sensible shoes to continue the day.

### Year 5 – BR – Bobby Robson

Hi all BR parents and carers 😊

Homework folders went out on Wednesday – hopefully you saw one come home! Please help your child find the time and space to work through the tasks on the sheet. They all link to ongoing learning in class so it's the perfect opportunity for them to show you what they've been learning at school! If more space is needed for working and answers, please use the back (or a separate piece of paper). We ask for homework to be returned by the following Monday morning so that we can look through it together as a class.

Following a visit to the library this week, everyone in Y5 should also have a book of their choice to read at home – this is as well as the Michael Morpurgo books that went home last week.

If you have any questions, please ask! Many thanks 😊

### Year 6 – MY – Malala Yousafzai

We have had an amazing two weeks back! Children are working really hard and giving it their all. We just wanted to share a couple of important dates and a little bit of insight into how we will be preparing the children for the upcoming SATs later this year.

**SATs Parents Meeting:** early March. Date to be confirmed. We will outline in much more detail what the assessments entail and be able to answer any questions/concerns you have.

**MOCK SATs Week:** week beginning 31<sup>st</sup> March. Children will sit SATs papers from 2024 as a practice run. We will also be exploring what support children need throughout this week to help them feel comfortable, confident and keep smiling.

**SATs Week:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May.

Since September, we have been building in examples of SATs style questions into various lessons so that children become familiar and have a chance to discuss the ways that these can be answered.

During the Spring term, we will be having some SATs workshop sessions to work through whole papers. This is not done under test conditions. Children can work independently or in pairs/small groups and we nominate questions that are causing problems. We can then look at these questions in more detail and practice them more. When the time is right, we will ask children to work for gradually longer periods under test conditions so that they can experience what this is like.

Following the MOCK SATs week, we then develop a revision programme which will children feel more prepared for the SATs week in May.

All of this is happening alongside still teaching the Y6 curriculum including foundation subjects so that children have a broad, balanced curriculum. We aim to keep it as low key as possible always impressing on the children that it is about doing their best. Much of our preparation incorporates helping children deal with these assessments emotionally including building resilience, managing expectations and finding out what works best for different children. Should you have concerns before the SATs parents meeting or at anytime, please come and speak with us. We pride ourselves in helping the children feel they have done the best they can and part of that is working with you.

### Lunch-time supervisor vacancy

Changes within school mean we may be looking to expand our Lunch time supervision team in the near future. At the moment we can't be 100% sure if we would be looking at 'standby support' i.e. appointed to be brought in to cover sickness, or recruiting a fully time member to the team.

It is such an important time of the day, crazy busy as almost 200 children feed and play - it is certainly not a role for the faint hearted. If you would be interested in finding out more, please complete the simple

Expression of Interest form (<https://forms.office.com/e/gxbe2Tq1DQ>). This is not a role reserved for parents and carers, so should you have friends or family you think would be interested, please feel free to pass on. No finders fee will be paid though 😊



**If you would like a paper copy of this letter for your fridge please call to the office and collect one.**