



The last two years have made many people pause for thought and reassess their lives. This is definitely the case at Gotham Primary, many staff changes are ahead of us and although change is scary, it is also a chance to rejuvenate and ensure that we are making the most of all aspects of our lives - both at home and work.

Farewell



In July, Mrs Swinfield will be leaving us. Liz has been at Gotham Primary since 2004. That was the start of something amazing, Liz is a pleasure to work with and has worked tirelessly over all those 17 years. Many classes of children have benefited from her expertise and Liz will be greatly missed. Mrs Magirr will also end her teaching role within school in July. Sarah has been an amazing class teacher since she joined us in 2007. Like Liz, Sarah has had a positive impact throughout her time at GPS and has built amazing relationships with staff and children alike. I am extremely pleased to say that Sarah will be staying with us as Special Needs Co-ordinator. Mrs Thorpe will also be leaving us in July, although she has only been with us a very short time, Sarah has made a real difference to the Oak class environment and has supported all the children within her care to settle back into school and get stuck into learning.



Miss Webster has been a teaching assistant at our school for 8 years. She has worked in many different classes and has made a real difference to children of all ages. Angela is now moving on to pursue a new career and we wish her great success. Mrs Smith will be reducing her hours in school and will move from working five days a week to three. Tracey will still be with us working her magic but will now have more time to spend with her family too.



As you already know, Mrs Howard will be beginning her maternity leave during May half term and Miss Danylevych will begin hers in the summer holiday. These two temporary departures will definitely have the magic of new beginnings!

Upcoming Events

Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June
Half Term – one week

Monday 7th June

INSET Day

No Children

Staff training on Reading Comprehension

Tuesday 8th June

Children return to school

Monday 14th & Tuesday 15th June

Adventure Days

Half day of activities per class

Wednesday 23rd June

8.30 – 9.25 Big Fish Pop-Up shop

9.30 New FS2 Induction meeting

Wednesday 30th June – Friday 2nd July

Transition Days

Wednesday 7th July

Sport's Day

Monday 12th July

9.15am Year 6 Dare Graduation

Wednesday 14th – 16th July

Hagg Farm Residential

Open to Year 5 and 6

Wednesday 19th July

Reports out

Friday 23rd July

Tokyo 2021 Day

Monday 26th July

Ramble and Picnic - All welcome

Pm Year 6 leavers Assembly

Tuesday 27th July

House Reward

Wednesday 28th July

2.30 School Closes for the summer



With the farewells explained, we now have the happy task of welcoming new staff to the team.

Brent Ashley has been appointed to our new Site Manager and Cleaning Supervisor roles. Brent has been with us since Easter and is settling in well to the routine.

Two new teachers have now been recruited, Luke Burton and Rhiannon Terry. Both are experienced teachers and we look forward to them joining us. Amber Evans has also been employed to cover Mrs Howard’s maternity leave. There are a couple more recruitments underway and I will keep you updated with the outcomes. Once these recruitments are finalised, we will be able to publish class lists.



I am very happy to announce that Miss Thomas’s teaching contract has been made permanent and she has also been promoted to the role of Maths Lead. Congratulations! From September, Mrs Kenny will be acting Deputy Head and English Lead for the duration of Miss Danylevych’s maternity leave. Mrs Kenny was extremely successful in this role during Miss Danylevych’s previous maternity leave. During this term, Miss Hopkins has been undertaking training and working alongside Mrs Thorpe in preparation for her move to Oak class in September. I know that Miss Hopkins is excited about the move and she is ready to give our new intake a lovely welcome into school. I feel fortunate to not only have a very supportive team around me now but also to have a new exciting team ready for September.

THE SECRET OF CHANGE IS TO FOCUS ALL OF YOUR ENERGY NOT ON FIGHTING THE OLD BUT ON BUILDING THE NEW
Seccombe

Oak and Beech Parent Information Evening

On Monday 21st June, I will be holding an information evening for current Oak and Beech parents. I am hopeful that we will be able to do this in person but this will be dependent on the Government’s Roadmap remaining on schedule. I will run the meeting through Teams, if needed. The purpose of the meeting will be to talk through a few organisational changes that will be happening next academic year. These will only affect Oak and Beech children. The evening will also give Oak and Beech parents a chance to see inside the building and your child’s classroom. I am very aware that some of you might never have been inside!

Next academic year begins on Thursday 2nd September for children. We have an INSET day on Friday 10th September. Half term is 18th – 29th October

Keeping in touch with activities in school



Are you following our Twitter feed? If not you can find it at [@SchoolGotham](https://twitter.com/SchoolGotham)

or there is a link through our website at gothamprimary.co.uk

As well as lots of useful information on the website, you will also find lots of photos showing what your child has been learning within school. Go to the memories tab and pick a subject.

Could your child be entitled to a

FREE school meal?



As well as free meals, this entitlement allows you to have paid school trips, milk, and more recently supermarket vouchers during school holidays – we are unsure how long they will last for though.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>



Chair of Governors' Update

As we come towards the end of another academic year, it is fantastic to see the progress that the children have made and how well they have coped in what has been a very difficult year. The Governors have all been getting to grips with Microsoft Teams (as we all have as parents!) to ensure that we continue to support the School and Staff during this time and I wanted to start by thanking parents, grandparents, teachers, teaching assistants and everyone else who has supported the children to continue to learn, make lovely memories and be the best they can be during this year. I particularly enjoyed seeing how creative people were being during lockdown via the school twitter page. It will be fantastic to hopefully be able to finish the year with a sports day and some of the usual end of term activities that we have all been missing and we hope to make this a really celebratory event, we might even get some sunshine.

The governors are focussing on supporting three key priorities across the school currently - Consistency of Practice; Early Years/Y1 Phonics; and Challenge and Mastery. This is part of work to continually improve practice and for us all to challenge ourselves to be the best we can be together. We have begun to be able to visit school again, with Covid precautions in place and it has been wonderful to see some of the changes that have been made. The Oak classroom has had a wonderful revamp, with exciting writing and role play areas and the children were demonstrating wonderful phonics skills when I visited. Across the school children have been working on mastery – asking why and understanding the process of getting to an answer, as well as just the answer itself. You may have noticed your child use new words in relation to this, explaining what made them decide upon something or lead them to an assumption. We have also seen the new curriculum becoming embedded and looking at curriculum progressions across the school.

It has been difficult as governors to be visible during this period, to families as well as the children, but please do feel that you can grab those of us who do drop off and pick up, get in touch via email (chair@gotham.notts.sch.uk) and have a chat at sports day. The details of the governors are in reception and on the website, we have recently welcomed Clare Payne (Charlie, Finley and Archie's Mum) and Emma Ault (Pippa and Ralph's Mum) to the Board. We will have another parent governor vacancy in September so if it's also something that you are interested in knowing more about, please do get in touch.

Look forward to seeing you at sports day and to walk up the hill for the ramble and picnic.

Jennie



Holidays

It seems a long time since we've all been able to go on our usual types of holidays and I know that there is a high level of fatigue amongst us all. Due to the lack of opportunity abroad, I also know that staycations are quite tricky to book at the moment. I completely understand all of these additional pressures but still I do urge you all to try your hardest to book holidays out of term time. The children have already missed a great chunk of schooling over the last eighteen months and really need to be in school. In addition, I do have to apply our attendance policy. It makes me feel really guilty at the moment but I have to adhere to agreed policies. Thank you for your understanding of my position and I will cross my fingers that everyone manages to have a well-earned rest this summer.