

**'Being the best we can be together!'**

## **A fantastic first half term**

This half term has been delightful; it has felt like we are back to business as usual after all the disruptions and partial closures of the last couple of years. The start of a new academic year is always exciting yet challenging for children. They love being in a new class but they have to get used to new routines and staff. As adults, I think we all appreciate that change is tricky and exhausting – this is just the same for children. All the children have definitely earned their holiday, as have the staff. I am in the lucky position of having an access all areas pass and it has been lovely seeing the children learn their new routines and getting stuck into learning. Improvements are evident in every classroom and I can see progress in those all-important organisational skills. Already, the youngest children are coming into assembly and sitting beautifully to listen. Well done 😊  
Janette Allen



## **Good Luck and Goodbye to Mrs Roberts!**

Mrs Roberts, who is a Teaching Assistant and our ELSA, will be leaving us at half term to take on a new role as an Occupational Therapist. Mrs Roberts has been a trained Occupational Therapist for many years – she is a truly multi-talented lady!

As you can imagine, we are extremely sad to lose Mrs Roberts but know that this is a fantastic opportunity for her. Good luck, Jo, we will all miss you very much.

Currently, we do not have a replacement for Jo but we are working on this. If there are children within school who need emotional support, Mrs Magirr will be supporting teachers and TAs to meet their needs using the wealth of resources that Mrs Roberts has built up for us.



Is your child entitled to Free school meals, trips and additional school funding? Find out if you're entitled

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



## **Upcoming Events**

**Tuesday 11th October**

Year 5/6 Basketball Match  
against South Wilford Primary

**Thursday 13th October**

Year 5/6 Girls' Football  
Match against Crossdale Drive  
Primary

**Friday 14th October**

Year 5/6 Basketball Match  
against Jesse Gray Primary

Break Up 3.30

**Halloween Cake sale in  
the school hall – run by  
FOGs**

**Monday 17th October – Friday  
28th October**

**HALF TERM – 2 WEEKS**

**Monday 31st October**

**INSET day – no children**

AM – Behaviour for learning  
PM - Curriculum

**Tuesday 1st November  
School reopens for all**

**Tuesday 8th & Wednesday 9th  
November**

**Parents' Evenings**

Letters to follow for  
appointment booking

## Sport and P.E. at GPS



Last academic year, we changed how we provided our sports provision and no longer use a sports coaching provider in the same way. I know there was a feeling of disappointment for some but the change was made to enhance our provision and give us greater flexibility and the opportunity to be involved in more sport. This half term, Jimmy 'Jumpshot' Smith has been coaching our year 5 and 6s in basketball. We are also taking part in 7 basketball tournaments. We have attended the Rushcliffe Schools' Boys and Girls football tournaments with children from years 4, 5 and 6 on two Saturday mornings and we have a girls' football match this week. Within school, we have bought into a new PE scheme, which is extremely supportive for staff and develops a progression for sports knowledge and skills from FS2 up to year 6. Over the year, we will continue to extend our sporting provision and opportunities for children.



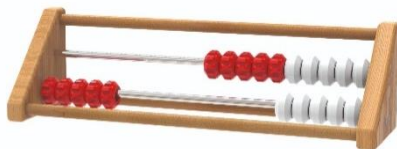
Our first basketball team and Jimmy 'Jumpshot' Smith

## Mastering Number FS2, Year 1 & Year 2

This year, we are enhancing our maths provision with the support of training from the East Midlands Maths Hub. All children in FS2, year 1 and year 2 will be having mastering number sessions as part of their maths teaching. The aim of this programme is:

- To develop fluency in calculation and number sense for all children
- To enable all pupils to clearly communicate their mathematical ideas

During some of these sessions, the children will use rekenreks. Rekenreks are ideal for building number sense. They provide pupils with a concrete, physical object to help develop and deepen their understanding of numbers. Students build a strong sense of 5 and 10, learning about the relationships between numbers and operations. Here is a rekenrek.



## Gotham Community Litter Pick



**Saturday 29th October 2022**

**Meet at the Pump 10.30**

**Picking stick, High Vis Vest and bags provided.**

**Thanks in advance!**

**WOODLAND HALLOWEEN ! FUN !**

*If you come down to Gotham Hill Woods, you'd better be in for a spooky surprise!*

Potions, Broom sticks, Bat hunt, Magic mud, Hot Chocolate, Marshmallows & more!

**FRIDAY 28TH OCTOBER, 1-3PM**

Soldiers Lane, off Kegworth Road, Gotham  
What3words: ambushes.husky.pickle  
Google Maps: Stonepit Wood Access

Email: [gothamhillwoods@gmail.com](mailto:gothamhillwoods@gmail.com) to book  
Age guide: 2 - 10yrs £2 each Parents to stay

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**OCTOBER HALF TERM FUN!**

Clifton Library – Lego 18th  
October 2-3.30pm, Craft 25th  
October 2-3.30pm

## Holiday Challenge for some



P.E is always a pleasure but the changing aspect can be quite a challenge for younger children. Over the holidays, we would be really appreciative if your children could practice getting dressed independently. One of the biggest differences in school, is how they find their clothes when they return from their P.E. lesson – generally, it is all inside out. Please support your children to learn how to put their clothes the right way round. They could even help you sort out the washing! Your help will be gratefully received.

### Useful Contacts

[www.gothamprimary.co.uk](http://www.gothamprimary.co.uk)

The school website has the calendar, policies and a range of useful information

[@SchoolGotham](https://twitter.com/SchoolGotham)

Follow our Twitter feed to see activities happening in school.

[ndelfino@gotham.notts.sch.uk](mailto:ndelfino@gotham.notts.sch.uk)

Miss Delfino is the best person to contact about absences, medical appointments, pick up arrangements and school dinners.

[janetteallen1@gotham.notts.sch.uk](mailto:janetteallen1@gotham.notts.sch.uk)

Miss Allen is a good person to contact with any concerns and academic questions.

[office@gotham.notts.sch.uk](mailto:office@gotham.notts.sch.uk)

Mrs Hughes is a good person to contact for general enquiries.

If there is an emergency, please don't rely on email. If we haven't replied to your email, phone the office on 0115 9149751



Just in case you missed it, here is the link to our new Ofsted report  
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/122644>

Here are a few of our favourite bits:

The school's mission statement of 'Being the best we can be together!' represents the aspirational ethos and family feeling at Gotham.

Classrooms are positive and peaceful places to learn. Pupils are polite and well-behaved. They know that bullying is not tolerated.

Teachers revisit what pupils have learned before. Pupils know why this is important. Pupils in Year 3 told inspectors, 'We do retrieval practice – we go over things from Year 1 and Year 2, so we don't forget.'

Pupils told inspectors, 'We do a lot of recapping in our lessons so the maths goes from our working memory into our long-term memory.'

Pupils value diversity and celebrate difference. They told inspectors, 'People should be treated the same way. There is no difference between people. We all have the same rights.'

Governors know the school well. They understand its strengths and areas for development. Governors have challenged and supported leaders to make improvements to the curriculum.

I would like to thank all the children, parents, staff and governors, who over the past 4 years have worked incredibly hard to help us return to a good judgement. Thank you, all!



Happy news, Mrs Shaw is expecting her second baby. The new addition is due around March time, so she will probably go on maternity leave at around February half term. Congratulations, Gemma and Matt. Emilia is going to love being a new big sister.

