



Gateford Park Primary School

2 September 2025

Welcome Back!

Dear Families,

Welcome to the new school year! I hope that you all had a lovely summer break and were able to have some rest and relaxation. We are very excited to be back at school and today has already got off to a brilliant start. There is a real buzz of excitement around school for the new school year!

Goodbyes/Welcomes

We would like to extend a warm Gateford welcome to our new Elves and Gnomes and their families, who join us this week. Welcome also to Seeki, who joins our team of midday supervisors.

Classes

The children have returned to school happy and full of enthusiasm.

I have visited all of the classrooms and there is exciting learning happening in every room! It's fantastic to see and it makes me so proud. Our new children are settling brilliantly into their classes!

Elf Class (Nursery)

If you know that you are entitled to free childcare, either 15 or 30 hours, for your 3 or 4 year old, we have places in our nursery. Please email the school office at office@gateford.notts.sch.uk to secure your child's place in nursery; it's never too early to complete an application form and places are extremely limited!



Good News Assembly

We will continue to have Good News Assemblies each Friday morning, starting at 9am. If your child is to receive a special mention, we will send you a text message and you will be invited to join us in the school hall to celebrate their achievement 😊

Contact/Medical Details

For safeguarding reasons, it is vital that we have up to date contact details of all of our parents. If you know that any of your details have changed, please update Mrs Ellis via email. Please also inform Mrs Ellis if there are any new medical conditions or allergens. It is **extremely important** that we have up to date information. If you yourself have a medical condition that you feel we should know about for safeguarding reasons, please let us know. Please note, if older siblings are collecting children from school, you **must** sign a permission slip, before we can allow this to happen. Please ask for a form either via your child's class teacher or email office@gateford.notts.sch.uk

Absence and Attendance

Please ensure that your child is **at school, on time** every day. Missing time in the classroom risks pupils falling behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. We aim for each child to achieve at least 97% attendance across the school year and we will be sharing our updated Attendance Policy as soon as it is finalised. The usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- parents' duty to ensure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct



For safeguarding reasons, you **must** let us know if they will not be in school, due to illness. If your child is ill in any way, the best place for them to be is at home. The most efficient way to contact us is via text or email. Please let us know that your child will be absent on EACH DAY OF THEIR ABSENCE.

If you contact your child's class teacher via classdojo to report an absence, please also remember to let Mrs Ellis know as well.

If you are experiencing difficulties with attendance/punctuality, please arrange to come and see me, so that we can support you in the best way.

Please note that ten unauthorised sessions of absence (5 days) from school will be referred to the local authority.

School Meals/School Milk

If you would like your child to have milk at school, please remember to book it on the 'Cool Milk' website. Milk is free for children under the age of 5 and for those in receipt of Free School Meals. The usual cost of milk is 31p per day for children over the age of 5, should you wish to purchase it via the website.

A reminder also that all KS1 (Gnome/Pixie/Unicorn Class) dinners are free as part of the Government's Universal Free School Meals initiative (please note that this is NOT the same as being eligible for free school meals mentioned below). Children in Key Stage Two (years 3 to 6) have to pay for dinners, unless you are eligible for free school meals (see below) so remember to set up an account on SchoolMoney Dinners as we are a cashless school. Thank you.

The menu for the autumn term is on the school website under key information.

Prices for Snacks, Lunches and Wraparound Care

A reminder of our charges:-

Mid-morning snacks from Chef Lou and her team are:- toast (30p), teacake (40p), crossiant (60p), ice pop (30p), ice-lolly (£1.00) and Friday pizza (60p).



A child's school meal is £2.70.

Elf class Lunch Club is £2.10 per session.

Breakfast club sessions are £3.60 per session.

Our After-School Provision runs from 3.20pm-6pm, Monday to Friday. We offer 2 sessions: 3.20pm – 4.30pm, at a cost of £5.50 per session. 3.20pm – 6pm, at a cost of £11 per session, to include a sandwich, crisps, biscuit and a drink.

Free School Meals Eligibility Reminder

If you are in receipt of certain benefits, you may be entitled to Free School Meals. This is *NOT* the same as Universal Free School Meals for children in Key Stage One. Our school receives extra funding to directly benefit children who are in receipt of free school meals, so please do check if you think that this is something that you may be entitled to. If you think you may be eligible, please follow the link below.

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk>

School Office

Please be aware that Mrs Ellis is on her own in the school office and the telephone lines can be very busy. If your query is not urgent, please email office@gateford.notts.sch.uk; we will get back to you as soon as possible. Please ONLY use the texting service to inform us of child absence. If your query can be dealt with by your child's class teacher, please contact them in the first instance via Class Dojo. Thank you for your cooperation 😊

Staff Led After School Clubs

Last year we trialled a different way of running staff led clubs, which was unsuccessful. As such, we have decided to reintroduce clubs that are free of charge and will run for one hour (3.20 – 4.20pm) at the end of the school day.



We are currently in the process of organising which clubs will be run and by whom. Once we have finalised this we will send out the necessary information.

Dates for Your Diary

The school holiday calendar for 2025-2026 is on the school website under 'Latest News' and the diary dates on the school website are up to date. Please have a look and update your diaries 😊

Finally

Once again, welcome back to the new school year. As always, if you have a question, a comment, a suggestion or a worry, please do not hesitate to get in touch. If you need to speak to either myself or your child's class teacher, please contact school to make an appointment and we will do our very best to help. Here's to a wonderful school year for everyone who is part of our Gateford Park family.

With my very best wishes,

Paula Doyle .

Paula Doyle
Headteacher

