

Thursday 5th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back. We hope you have enjoyed the Christmas break and are raring to go this half term.

This week is Art Focus Week. We have chosen to link the element of drawing with the love of reading - "How does an illustrator bring a book to life?" Our on-going work will appear on Twitter. The artwork we produce will be displayed around school.

Kyrstie Stubbs

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all and to say that I hope I meet you in person over the next few weeks. My door is always open if you want to come and chat about anything.

As you are aware I am supporting the team at Gawthorpe whilst we recruit a new Headteacher as part of my role as Deputy CEO for the Trust.

I have previously been a Headteacher for 12 years and also School Improvement Partner for Kirklees and many years ago was the Deputy at Towngate which is one of the trust schools!

I have three children and three dogs, two of which are new puppies and was born in Dewsbury so I know this area very well having worked in Ossett as a teenager.

As a leader I am passionate about staff and pupil well-being and also about ensuring children are educated about equity and inclusion.

I am really looking forward to getting to know the children and the fabulous staff team – it's a wonderful school!

Covid

Due to new government guidelines an updated risk assessment has been updated and uploaded to our website [Essential Information - Gawthorpe Academy \(ipmat.co.uk\)](https://www.gawthorpe.ipmat.co.uk/essential-information)

We have had some positive cases in nursery and school. Please could we ask that all parents are vigilant and that if there is any doubt with your child's symptoms please ensure a lateral flow test is completed. All results, both positive and negative must be emailed to gca-enquiries@ipmat.co.uk

Phonics

As you are aware we have taught phonics in school using the Floppy's Phonics programme, however over the past few months we have been preparing as a school for the move to the Read Write Inc phonics programme. Read Write Inc is a DfE-validated systematic synthetic phonics programme with a whole school approach to teaching early reading and writing. More information has been attached in the two handbooks and our school website will be updated.

https://cdn.oxfordowl.co.uk/2017/09/20/10/19/37/449/rwi_RPhO_PIB1.pdf

https://cdn.oxfordowl.co.uk/2017/09/20/10/26/27/731/rwi_RphO_PIB2.pdf

Nursery

We apologise for the late notice but Nursery will be closed to all nursery children on **Thursday 27th January** for nursery staff training.

A reminder to parents that staff do update Seesaw for Nursery, so please keep checking to see if there is anything the Nursery staff have asked parents to try and do to support their child's learning. Thank you.

Nursery children – school admission

Will your child be 4 by 31 August 2022?

Please see attached poster to register your child for school. **Closing date 15 January 2022.**

New Year

From **Tuesday 4th January** we will be amending the arrangements of school entry for all year groups, see below.

Reception Class 8.50am to 3.00pm – Bottom school gate

Year 1 8.40am to 3.10pm – Bottom school gate

Year 2 8.45am to 3.15pm – Top school gate

Year 3 8.35am to 3.05pm – Top school gate

Year 4 8.35am to 3.05pm – Bottom school gate

Year 5 8.45am to 3.15pm – Bottom school gate

Year 6 8.35am to 3.05pm – Bottom school gate

Parents are requested to bring their child to school at the **earliest time** for their family e.g. if your child is in Year 3 but you have a child in Reception, **we are now asking that you bring the children to school for the Year 3 to start on time.** We will endeavour to get the children into school as soon as possible. A pupil who arrives late after 9.00am will be marked as late (L).

Gym Equipment

The new gym inside the top gate will be ready for action next week. We are hoping to have an official opening ceremony. Although the equipment may look like normal playground equipment, it is actually specialised gym equipment. This must be supervised by a member of staff at all times. Children will have timetabled access to this during the school day and we hope to have after school sessions next half term when it's hopefully a little warmer!

Please can we ask that once your child has left the school building, the children need to stay with the adult collecting them.

FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY, PLEASE ENSURE THE CHILDREN DO NOT GO ON THE GYM EQUIPMENT BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL. THANK YOU

Communication

When contacting the school email gca-enquiries@ipmat.co.uk and not the class teachers. Once the email is received by gca-enquiries, the email is then uploaded to CPOMS and is then added to the child's file and then assigned to the relevant staff to action. Parents should not be emailing class teachers. Thank you.

Items being brought to school

Due to the increase of the positive cases, we ask that children bring to school their water bottle, lunch box and a book bag (which are available from the school uniform shop) **or** the plastic wallet with their homework/reading book/reading record book in. **No rucksacks please.**

School Uniform

As per September 2021, school uniform stipulated that children wear full uniform and black trainers. For PE children should wear their PE top, **school sweatshirt**. No other hoodies/sweatshirts are to be worn.

Please ensure children do not come to school in pink or white trainers. As per the above black trainers are required to be worn.

P.E. Days

Please note – this half term Year 2 PE days are Thursday and Friday.

Year 4 PE days will be Thursday.

Please note w/c 10th January – Year 5 P.E. will be Tuesday instead of Wednesday (for one week only)

School Activities

Please find below a table with school activities for this half term, starting week commencing 10th January. Microsoft forms will be sent out today for you to apply.

Day	Time	Afterschool Activity	Year Groups
Monday	3.15pm – 4.00pm	Arithmetic Club	Year 5 and Year 6
Tuesday	3.05pm-3.30pm	Timestable Club	Year 4 (any Y4 child can attend)
Tuesday	3.15-4.00pm	Choir	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 (5 weeks)
Tuesday	3.15-4.15pm	Gym Club	Cost £2.50 per week. If anyone is interested please email sspark@ipmat.co.uk
Wednesday	3.15-4.15pm	Multi Sports Payment £1 per week x 5 weeks	Year 4, 5 and 6
Thursday	3.05pm-3.30pm	Timestable Club	Year 4 (any Y4 child can attend)
Thursday	3.15-4.15pm	Multi Sports Payment £1 per week x 5 weeks	Year 1, 2 and 3
Friday	3.15-4.15pm	Dance Payment £1 per week x 5 weeks	Year 1, 2 and 3

Confirmation emails will be sent to confirm if your child has a place at the clubs.

Only when you receive the confirmation email we ask you to make the payment via School Cash Office before your child attends. Do not make a payment if your child receives FSM. Please do not send any money into school.

For safeguarding purposes if your child is unable to attend for any reason, please contact school or email sspark@ipmat.co.uk

Picture News

Please find attached this week's Picture News poster. Picture News is a resource used in school to promote discussion around current issues. Each week there is a homework activity with an image and a question. We would encourage you to talk about this at home with the children. There are no right or wrong answers, it is a forum for discussion.

Mrs K. Stubbs
Deputy CEO & Interim Headteacher

Miss D. Sidebottom
Assistant Headteacher

<u>Upcoming Diary Dates</u>		
Date	Event	Year Group
Thursday 27th January	Staff training For NURSERY only	For all Nursery children only
Friday 18 th February	Break up for half term	Whole school/Nursery
Monday 28 th February	Return to school	Whole school/Nursery

TAKEHOME




In the news this week

A recent pilot project, called Growing Among Trees, provided outdoor activities for urban schools around London and sought to create a model for effective and transformational change in urban schools, giving pupils the opportunity for everyday connection with nature. The Outward Bound Trust, who run outdoor trips and experiences such as white water rafting and climbing agree, saying outdoor learning should be a priority for children following increased time indoors during the pandemic.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Do you prefer being outside or inside? Why?
- Do you enjoy any parts of the school day that are outside? If so, which parts?
- What skills do you think you can learn from being outside?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss





**Will your
child be 4**



by 31 August 2022?



If the answer is **YES** and you're a Wakefield resident you must apply for a full-time school place **NOW**, as your child will not automatically be given a place.



APPLY ONLINE, APPLY ON TIME

Complete your online application form at
www.wakefield.gov.uk/admit

and submit it by the closing date of 15 January 2022

This service is easy to use and you can log on to get your offer of a place on **19 April 2022**.



wakefieldcouncil