

Spring Term Newsletter

16th January 2026

The Gattons Infant School

Welcome back! It has been lovely to see the children settle back so well after the holidays and I hope you all had a good break.

Thank you to everyone for your understanding yesterday when we had to close. Your speedy response in picking your children up was greatly appreciated.

We have a busy half term ahead so please make sure you read the diary dates on the back of the newsletter.

Please remember that if you are leaving a message on the phone to give your child's class as well as their full name. This will save the office a great deal of time.

The weather isn't looking to improve soon, so please remember coats everyday and please make sure your child has wellies. The swings are open at lunchtimes but the children need their wellies on to go on the field.

Have a lovely weekend.

Sarah Gospel
Headteacher

OPAL

We are outside unless it is torrential rain so your children do need coats and wellies please!

Do you have any small world toys that you are getting rid of? If so, please email photos to Mrs Gospel or the office - office@thegattons.co.uk

A huge thank you to Houlihans for our amazing path which is now finished and ready for the children to use!



What have we been doing in school!

Year 2 have made a very exciting start to the term with the discovery of a white feather in our Curious Quests portal. We have been wondering what polar animal it has come from. The children have been so excited to learn facts about polar animals and the weather has certainly suited our new Pole to Pole topic! The children have been also looking at materials and their properties in Science and we have been



learning about the 7 Continents in Geography. Ask your children to sing you the song we have been learning!



In Reception we are learning all about traditional tales. The children were all amazed when they saw that some cheeky gingerbread men had visited their classrooms and left them a story book. The children wrote messages, built traps and made wanted posters to try to find the gingerbread men.

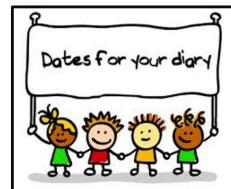
Year 1 are learning about Space. We had a visit from the planetarium on Tuesday and the children and adults were in awe at the size of our universe. We learned so many facts about the planets and our galaxy, The Milky Way. The children also, "Went to the moon," on our Space Day adventure. We all dressed up and used drama to relive the historic events when Neil Armstrong Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins travelled into space and took part in the first moon landing in July 1969.

Diary Dates

January

Tuesday 20th

Year 1 Phonics Meeting 9am



February

Tuesday 3rd

Blackbirds DT Workshop

Wednesday 4th

Nightingales DT Workshop

Thursday 5th

Woodpeckers DT Workshop

Friday 6th

FOGS Music Bingo Quiz - 7pm Adults Only

Tuesday 10th

Wrens DT Workshop

Wednesday 11th

Swallows DT Workshop

Thursday 12th

Robins DT Workshop

Thursday 12th

Year 2 Celebration of Learning - 2.30pm

Monday 16th - Friday 20th

Half term holiday

Monday 23rd

INSET Day - School closed for children

Tuesday 24th - Friday 27th

Nepal Week

March

Thursday 5th

World Book Day - Details to follow

Tuesday 10th & Thursday 12th

Parent/Teacher Consultation Meetings

Tuesday 17th

FOGS Cake Sale

Tuesday 17th

Multi Skills Competition

Wednesday 18th

Let's Dance at The Dome - Y1 & Y2

Thursday 26th

FOGS Discos - all year groups

Friday 27th

Last day of the Spring Term

Monday 30th - Friday 10th April

Easter Holiday

April

Monday 13th

First day of the Summer Term

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNs

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

#WakeUp
Wednesday®

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