



Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England Primary School

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Newsletter *October 2020*

Dear Parents

It is wonderful to have all our classes open and our school community back together. My reflections over the time that we had to close classes has been that if we all work together we can keep learning. This week staff have had additional training on TEAMS, the Microsoft platform we are intending to use. It will enable interactive sessions between teachers and pupils should we have to close classes again. Children who are isolating at home without their class group will also be given work to complete. As a staff we will work together to support them in their learning from home, through a mixture of recorded lessons and written work set by the teachers.

We are having to find different ways to work with parents this year and as such have postponed parents' evenings until after half term. We intend to host virtual meetings with you all using Teams.

I have challenged the children and staff this weekend to actively find ways to improve their wellbeing. Please see the information below and the attached diary idea should you and your children want to join us. Feel free to do some of your best ideas and experiences.

Monday is our virtual Harvest Festival and this year we are supporting Grantham Foodbank. Donations can be made on ParentMail and further details will be sent next week.

Mrs J Watson
Headteacher

5 Ways to well-being

Connect...

With the people around you, family, friends, colleagues or neighbours. At home or in your local community. Think of these connections as the cornerstones of your life and invest time in developing them. Building these connections will support and enrich you every day. This can be done in person, via social media or by phone.

Be active...

Go for a walk or jog. Step outside or cycle if possible. Play a game that gets you moving. Do the garden. Dance. Exercising makes us feel good. Maybe join an

online fitness group or simply stand up and do some basic stretches. Most importantly, try a physical activity that you enjoy and that suits your level of mobility and fitness.

Take notice...

Be curious. Catch sight of the beautiful. Remark on the unusual. Notice the changing seasons. Savour the moment, whether you are walking, eating lunch or talking to friends. Be aware of the world around you, the sounds, smells and textures. Reflecting on your experiences will help you appreciate what matters to you. Maybe try out a mindfulness app.

Keep learning...

Try something new or rediscover an old interest. Sign up for that course. Take on a different responsibility. Fix a bike. Learn to play an instrument or how to cook your favourite food. Set a challenge you will enjoy achieving. Learning new things makes us feel more confident as well as being fun, it can also be a really helpful distraction.

Give...

Do something nice for a friend, or a stranger. Thank someone. Smile. Volunteer your time. Join an online group. Look out, as well as in. Seeing yourself being linked to the wider community can be incredibly rewarding and creates connections with the people around you. Maybe phone someone and try to really listen to them.

Start and end of the school day

Thank you to all those parents supporting us and helping to keep our school community safe by wearing a face mask when entering the school grounds. In line with government guidance KS2 parents (Y3,4,5,6) are not permitted onto the premises in a morning. Where possible KS1 and Reception children should also be unaccompanied, however if they still need escorting only one adult should accompany them. The large number of staff outside will continue so you can be assured that your child will be well supported and cared for.

We will maintain the going home arrangements to avoid large groups on the pavement outside school. Please continue to be aware of your need to socially

distance from other adults and families. We must all work together to keep everyone safe and well.

Please see these time slots as windows to drop off your child rather than arriving for a specific time, this will hopefully further support social distancing.

Reception Year 1 and Year 2	8.45 – 9.00	3.05 – 3.10
Year 3 and Year 4	9.00 – 9.10	3.15 – 3.20
Year 5 and Year 6	9.10 – 9.15	3.25 – 3.20

Message from the DFE regarding COVID-19 testing and those feeling unwell

We recommend that your pupils who feel unwell only get tested if they develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms:

a high temperature

a new, continuous cough

the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell, or they are recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse)

If a pupil develops one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms described above, only they should be tested. There is no need for their households to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic. Unless a pupil has one of the three main coronavirus symptoms, they should only be tested if instructed otherwise by the local authority, health protection team or their GP. As schools and colleges across England return, pupils may feel unwell for example with a sore throat, stomach upset or a headache. These pupils don't need to book a test but may need to stay off school or college and seek medical advice through their GP or pharmacist as usual.

A few reminders

Please label all items of uniform and equipment. We are unable to store lost property and all un-named items will be disposed of.

Send your child with a jumper / cardigan as the classroom windows are open for fresh air.

Bring a coat / waterproof – we're going out to play come what may!

Fruit is provided for pupils in Reception & KS1. Pupils in KS2 can bring a healthy snack (fruit, veg or cheese) – it's a long time until lunchtime

KS2 School Meals

We are very keen to provide a hot school meal for pupils in KS2 and staff have been working hard to organise this. The menu for next term will be available to order shortly on ParentMail and KS2 pupils will be able to select a hot meal. KS2 meals cost £2.30 each which is excellent value for money.

If you feel your child may be eligible for Free School Meals, please complete the online application

<https://lcc.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/parentportal> or speak to the school office.

Parent Governor Nominations

Our governing body currently has a vacancy for a new Parent Governor. Governing bodies are responsible for a wide range of matters which come under three main headings:

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The governing body of our school would welcome nominations from any interested parents but specifically those with the following skills: financial, resource and/or people management, working within the community or education.

Nominations must be received by 10am Tuesday 6th October

Secondary School Transition for Y6

We would like to remind parents of pupils in Y6 that it is important you apply for a secondary place at a school, if you want your child to start Y7 in September 2021.

You can apply online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions the closing date is 12 noon 31st October 2020

Key Dates For Your Diaries

October 2020

Mon 5th Harvest Week
Tues 6th Parent Governor nomination deadline
Tues 13th Flu vaccination
Wed 14th Individual & Sibling photographs
Mon 19th Y6 Bikeability Mon - Thurs
Thurs 22nd End of term
Fri 23rd Staff InSET day

November 2020

Mon 2nd Return to school
Tues 10th Parents' Evening (virtual meeting)
Weds 11th Parents' Evening (virtual meeting)
Fri 13th Children in Need

December 2020

Thurs 17th End of term