



**Goring Church of England
(Aided) Primary School**
Faith, Love and Learning

20 March 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Following the significant recent changes announced by the Government, this letter contains a lot of vital information for you, which I would strongly urge you to read carefully and in full. Please keep this letter safe as you may need to refer to it if your circumstances change. A copy will be made available on the school website.

Thank you for responding to my recent emails so promptly, this has enabled us to process and plan more efficiently today and I am now able to share further details for both children who will be learning at home and also those who will be coming into school because they are in a Government identified priority group.

I can confirm that if you indicated on the survey that you are in a priority group (ie key worker or have a vulnerable child) and that you intend to send your child into school that a place will be available, staff ratios permitting, from Monday 23 March (unless you have been advised otherwise). All other children will be expected to be based at home for the foreseeable future.

School based learners

Children who have been identified in priority groups will be expected in school from Monday.

Children will come to school in uniform and bring their PE kits including trainers & tracksuit bottoms (which will remain in school for the week)

The school day will remain the same 8.45am - 2.50pm.

It is important that if your child is not in school that you ring the school office before 9.15am to provide a reason for absence as usual each day. If you choose to keep your child at home as a result of your shift pattern, please inform us of this too or if you have had to self-isolate etc

Children will enter the school site via the main gate by the school office and proceed to the school hall, where they will be met by allocated Teaching Assistants. Children with additional needs will be met by a Learning Support Assistant at the gate. Children will become part of a new class group according to numbers of staff and pupils on site. Currently we plan for a Reception/Year1 mixed class, a Year 2/3 mixed class, a Year 4/5 mixed class and a Year 6 class structure, however this is subject to change over time.

Children's learning will follow an adjusted timetable with daily collective worship in classes, Maths, English, creative and PE activities.

Children should bring a fruit snack and a water bottle to school each day. A hot school meal will be provided on Monday 23 March for those children who usually have one and for those who have already ordered directly with Chartwells. All other children should bring a packed lunch. Further details about lunch provision will be provided via email on Monday.

Home based learners

A home-learning website has been set up to access children's work. A huge thank you goes out to Mrs Perryman who has given of her time and expertise to work with Mr. Wilkins and to support the school over the past 48 hours to establish this facility. You can access this website each day to find tasks that have been set by your child's teacher. Each year group has a separate log to alleviate pressure on the system and prevent a site malfunction. Where you have multiple children and only one device at home, only one child has to log in then all siblings will be able to access their class learning on the site. There is no need for each child to log in separately.

Goring Home Learning Hub access details:

All usernames and passwords can be obtained by emailing the office.

We will be uploading new content weekly and will also use this platform as a way of communicating messages, photos and videos from staff. There are also links to free learning sites that you can access for additional educational content. Teachers will be uploading planned learning activities to the Home Learning Hub in readiness for Monday to go live by 10.30am. Should there be any unforeseen delay in this process, please access the school website <https://www.goring.w-sussex.sch.uk/classes>. Under the classes tab, you will find 'Home Learning' activities that you can complete until the Home Learning Hub website is fully operational.

Children have been provided with an exercise book today to record their home learning. If your child was not in school today, exercise books and additional resources for Y6 can be collected from the school office from Monday if required. Where practical, we would advise that you create a work station or area at home which can be used as a space to complete school work. It is important to provide a clear daily structure and adhere to this for consistency and continuity. We recommend that you also include time for exercise and fresh air, as well as quality family time too since this will help with everyone's mental health.

Teachers are keen to support families as necessary and can be contacted via email to answer any questions that you may have – they will respond as quickly as possible. All teachers' email address will be available via your child's year group page on the Home Learning Hub.

Teachers will also be making contact by email/phone on a regular basis. We hope that you will be able to support your children's learning at home, in any way which is practical for you, and hope that you will be able to spend time making memories with your children, despite the difficulties that we may face. We suggest that Reception complete a minimum of 1 hour school work; Key Stage 1 complete a minimum of 1.5 hours school work and Key Stage 2 a minimum of 2 hours per day.

Here is a timetable which you may like to use/adapt for the upcoming period. This would of course look different for different ages, needs and family circumstances and we understand that this may not be practical for all.

Before 9am	Wake up	Have breakfast Get dressed Brush your teeth Make your bed Tidy your room
9-10	Well-being and physical health	If possible, morning walk or indoor exercise. You Tube – Jump Start Johnny, Joe Wicks, Just Dance etc https://www.nhs.uk/10-minute-shake-up/shake-ups Set up a free GoNoodle account. Joe Wicks will have online workouts every morning at 9am on his You Tube channel.
10 – 11	Learning time	Complete some school work set / reading / sharing a book
11 – 12	Creative time	Lego, drawing, colouring, craft, music, singing, play-doh, dancing, cooking/ baking together
12 – 1	Lunch time / Relax	Controlled electronics, computers and games consoles. Please remember online safety and supervise your child.
1 – 1.30pm	Exercise Time	(As above)
1.30 – 2.30pm	Learning time	Complete some school work set / reading / sharing a book
2.30 – 3.00pm	Quiet reflective time / mindfulness	Reflect on a bible story or verse, listen to some calming music, share your thoughts and feelings with some-one
3.00 – 4.00pm	Fresh air	Outdoor play / walk or exercise indoors

Well-being and mental health:

Despite home learning tasks being set by teachers, we feel that it is also important for you to look after yourselves' and children's mental health and well-being. You might be tempted to create a minute by minute timetable for your children and you probably have high hopes of hours of learning, limiting leisure technology until everything is done. However, it is important to remember that the children may be feeling just as scared and uncertain as adults are right now.

Children hear lots that is going on around them, and feel adults' tension and anxiety - they have never experienced anything like this before. Although the idea of being off school for weeks sounds like fun, it is a novelty and they are probably picturing fun times like summer holidays, not the reality of being at home and not seeing their friends.

Over the coming weeks, it is therefore likely that you may see an increase in behaviour issues with your children. Whether it's anxiety, or anger, or protest that they can't do things as normal. You'll may see more 'meltdowns' and oppositional behaviour too. This is normal and expected under these circumstances. To pre-empt and alleviate these feelings, we would encourage you to talk regularly, listen and provide ongoing calm reassurance. What your children will need during these months is to feel comforted and loved; to feel like it is all going to be ok. That might mean that some days you need to rethink your timetable / planned activities and spend a bit more quality

time together– play outside and go on walks; bake and paint; play board games and watch films; do science experiments or go on a 'virtual' zoo trip; snuggle together and do nothing. Remember that this may be necessary too, to keep you all healthy and safe. This is a unique opportunity to make special memories as a family.

Try not to worry about children regressing in their learning. Every child will be in the same situation and when we are back in the classroom, teachers will re-assess and plan according to starting points – we are experts at this! Don't fight with your children because they don't want to do maths. Don't mandate hours of learning time if they are resisting it; your child's (and your) mental health are more important at this time, so please keep this in mind every day.

Free School Meals

The Local authority's intention is to provide children eligible for a Free School meal with a welfare food package for the week from Tuesday 24 March. The distribution arrangements for this are currently being finalised and I will advise you of these after the weekend. As a school we will endeavor to provide a packed lunch on Monday which we hope to be able to deliver to you directly.

We are a strong and supportive school community and this has been very evident in the past few days. All staff have worked tirelessly to ensure continuity of learning and support for wellbeing for which I am incredibly grateful. As we enter the next phase of this difficult time, please be assured we continue to be accessible via email and phone should you need us in any way. We are thinking especially of our Year 6 children who may have concluded their time at Goring in an unexpected way and we are already discussing ideas for a belated leavers' celebration.

Stay safe and healthy. We look forward to when we can be together again as a school family.

Isaiah 41 verse 10 says: -

'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.'

Yours sincerely

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