

Tuesday 24th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you and your family well. I will be writing to you regularly over the next few weeks - I think it is important that during this time we stay in touch, we remember what a great community we are and that we are here to support one another. The staff will begin calling you in the next few days to check how you and your children are and if there is anything we can do to help. If you need any support from us, please do not hesitate to get in touch. The office is staffed everyday between 9am and 3:30pm (020 8850 5486) or you can email us - the staff emails are on our website.

Here are a few updates for you:

- **Free School Meals** - the Local Authority's plan to provide packed lunches for the children who are entitled to free school meals does not seem to be working very well. Very few parents have been in to collect them, and I know from my discussions with other Head Teachers that all schools seem to be having the same issue. Therefore, we are taking action ourselves to find a better alternative. Our plan is to provide food vouchers which can be sent to your phone. We are still in the process of setting this up but hope this will be more successful.
- **Welfare Packs** - thanks to the generosity of some families and local businesses we have been able to make up welfare packs containing food and toiletries. Please let us know if you need one.
- **Home Schooling** - we hope that your children are enjoying the range of activities we sent home last week. I have a long list of educational websites that might be of interest to you. I'm going to check through them first and then I'll send you the links. We are looking into setting up online classrooms which we hope will be in place after Easter. If this works as we anticipate, the teachers will be able to set tasks for the children to complete and will be able to mark the work and provide feedback.
- **Newsletter** - we will continue to send out a weekly newsletter. It will contain advice on home schooling and links to various support services. We'd also like to include photos of some of the fantastic things your children are working on at home. If you'd like to share something please email me at headteacher@gordon.greenwich.sch.uk and use the title Newsletter.
- **Staff** - a small number of staff are in school each day to provide childcare for the children of our key workers. The remainder of the staff are working at home on developing an exciting new curriculum in line with the expectations outlined in the latest Ofsted framework.
- **Year 6** - I am desperately hoping that the requirement for school closures will be lifted soon. If this is not the case, and we do not return to school until September, I want to reassure the Year 6 pupils that we haven't forgotten about them. We will mark the end of their primary education and their transition to secondary with a Reunion Party. I have been in contact with the organising committee and they are on board with this.

- **School Journey** - it is looking unlikely that the School Journey to Osmington Bay will go ahead. PGL's first option is to reschedule but that is probably not going to be an option for us so I will be looking into how we can secure refunds for you.
- **Thank you** - yesterday's announcement about the increased lockdown measures the Government are implementing were hard-hitting. Thank you for following the directive to stay at home and limit social interactions. You are helping to keep our community safe. We also need to say a massive thank you to all of the NHS staff who are doing a remarkable job of caring for the sick. Their dedication is truly inspirational! Let's help them do their jobs by staying at home.

Best wishes to you all.

Take care and stay safe.

Jason Taylor
Head Teacher