



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

9 March 2021

Dear Parent /Carer,

What a wonderful return to school! It has been fantastic to see school families re-uniting as a community and children re-engaging so enthusiastically and bringing their potato book characters with them! I have spent time talking with the children while they enjoy extra planned social time outside together and heard how pleased they are to once again see their friends in person. They commented that they had learned so much during lockdown including the importance of a schedule and how much they appreciated their teachers and the benefits of class based learning. Opportunities to support members in their community and pursue their passions eg: engaging in eco projects were also mentioned. They have clearly valued their time with family members at home and the chance to have long walks and play games together. As we transition back into school routines we will prioritise the children's mental health and wellbeing alongside our clear learning focus.

I have been reflecting on what has been learned during lockdown and know from your feedback that resilience is high on the list. Many parents, while working alongside their child/ren have also noted how as they engaged more directly with their child's learning, they gained a deeper understanding of the expectations and teaching methods used to explain concepts. These outcomes from such a challenging time are worth celebrating and using to full effect as we move forward into the future.

### **Sussex Schools Virtual sport event**

I am delighted to announce that the results for the Active Sussex - Virtual School Games that took place during lockdown shows that not only did Goring CE Primary come first in the Worthing area but also in the whole of Southern Sussex. A brilliant achievement! Some additional information is that we also had 52% of our children involved on average, this includes the half-term week where numbers were a little lower and, more impressively, we also had the highest number of adults involved, showing we were the best school in Southern Sussex at getting the whole school community active. A huge well done to every-one who took part and to Mr Ireland who always promotes these events so enthusiastically.

### **Safety**

With the increased number of children on site safety continues to be our top priority. Both myself and teachers have again reminded the children of the importance of adherence to the protective measures we have in place. Please re-visit the ways that we can keep everyone in our school community safe with your children. An updated version of the school risk assessment can be found on the school website for your reference.

## **Asymptomatic testing information for parents and adults in households with children at school or college**

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.

Test kits can either be collected or ordered online, as set out below. You should not give test kits to parents, carers or household members and should not order more test kits for this purpose. Secondary school and college students will continue to access testing through their school or college.

Please share the information below with your parent networks to help answer any questions they may have.

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

## Travelling to school safely

As part of your ongoing communications with your pupils and their parents, you may wish to share the following messages on how pupils can travel to and from school safely:

- if you live a short distance from your school or college, walk, cycle or scoot to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so
- avoid sharing a car with anyone outside of your household or support bubble
- if you are using public transport to get to school or college, plan ahead and allow more time for your journey
- when you are travelling by public or dedicated school transport, don't forget to:
  - wear a face covering (unless you are exempt, including if you are aged 11 and under). It is important you wear them for the entirety of your journey, including inside a bus or train station
  - social distance where possible
  - wash or sanitise your hands regularly
  - be considerate to fellow passengers and staff.

## Easter holiday club provision

After a very successful week during October half term the Outdoor project will be returning over the Easter holidays and are currently open for bookings. [www.theoutdoorsproject.co.uk](http://www.theoutdoorsproject.co.uk) If you need childcare during this period, this is a great opportunity to give your child an active and exciting experience using our wonderful grounds.

## PSA second hand uniform

Our thanks go to members of the PSA who responded so swiftly to meet the need for uniform prior to the full re-opening of school. I know many of you took advantage of this offer of support and have been grateful for the items you have received.



We have received a note of thanks and appreciation for participating in the Heads On Hearts of Gold project.

*'Here at Heads On, we have loved seeing all the decorated hearts of gold and know the staff at Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust have really appreciated seeing them too. Raising mental health awareness in your local community can really make a person's day and let them*

*know they are not alone when experiencing their own mental health issues. We have seen the demand for mental health support significantly increase during the pandemic, including amongst NHS staff. We really hope the project has brought young people, adults and families some joy and resources to help during this lockdown'.*

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Jee

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