



Giffard Park Primary School

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Update for all our children and families

Dear Parents/Carers,

Home learning

School has now been closed to all but essential key worker children for two weeks. In that time, we do understand and appreciate the role that parents have taken on in trying to support your child's learning at home whilst also having to do your own jobs as well. I am sure this has had its challenges.

There is also a lot of coverage in the press and social media how parents are finding that juggling these different roles is increasing family stress levels at an already challenging time. It is the responsibility of us at school as educational professionals to provide comprehensive learning resources for your children whilst not at school. We will continue to meet this responsibility over the coming weeks, especially as we are very mindful that the children are likely to miss 30% of their learning this year. When they return, we will be focused on ensuring they are mentally well and then ready to get back into the full swing of school life and are able to catch up. This will need a carefully planned transition back to school.

We are encouraging the children to engage with the learning provided so that they don't miss out too much on what they would have had access to in school. However, how this home learning is implemented at home is very much up to you as parents. We fully appreciate that parents are not teachers and your approach to how you use the resources being provided are very much up to what fits in best with your family dynamics, routines and commitments. You may choose to do all that is offered or some of what is offered. It really has to be up to you as to how you make it work at home and we are here to help if needed.

As the Headteacher, I am concerned about the impact of not being in school for a long time will have on our children from a mental health and social as well as an academic perspective. My hope is that in working together with you at home, we can minimise this impact.

Keeping in touch

Please continue to follow us on Facebook – we will continue to post updates and videos from our staff regularly so that we can keep in touch with you all. It has been wonderful to see what you have all been doing at home. I have been so impressed to see that many of you are doing the daily Joe Wicks PE lessons, exercising, doing maths challenges and other activities.

Please continue to keep us all updated with your photos and videos.

Easter Holidays

There is no home learning set over the Easter holidays, enjoy the time with your families. School continues to remain open to the children of key workers.



Post Easter

I am watching the daily news updates, as I am sure you will be too. Therefore, as it stands, we are intending to continue to stay open for essential key workers, providing we can continue to staff this. Further home learning for w/c 20.4.20 will be on our website and Facebook page.

There are a number of excellent resources available for children to use online – and it is important to ensure that the children are being safe online.


Where can I go to get support to help keep my child safe online?

There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)

I hope that you all have an enjoyable Easter and continue to stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely,



Miss E Donoghue
Headteacher