



Gladstone Road Primary School

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8th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Week 1 Update

Well what a different start to the new year this has been!

All of the staff were in on Monday and prepared for a full opening on Tuesday. We all heard the news on Monday night that the school would be closed and what did we do?

We all leapt into action! 🚀🏆

In school we:

- As ever, pulled together as a huge united team
- We opened the doors to Key Worker Children and our most Vulnerable Children
- Led by Miss Gill, the team prepared and hand delivered over 800 learning packs
- Teaching Staff organised 'live' lessons
- Mr Jeffery dealt with a zillion ICT issues
- The Admin and Safeguarding teams immediately reacted to support you
- The list goes on and on

At home you:

- Kept us going with your support and encouragement
- Talked to your children and prepared them for what was to come
- Organised your household to be ready for the children not going to school, despite the pressure that was immediately applied to you in so many forms, when it was announced that the Nation was back in full lockdown

🚀🏆👍🌟❤️ **What an outstanding achievement!** 🏆👍🌟❤️

I am sure you will agree that the value of the 'live' lessons is immeasurable for all of us that are able to access them. The children are receiving face to face contact, which is boosting their spirits. Parents are able to get on with other things in the house whilst having just one eye on the children. Learning is still continuing. Routines for all of us can be established. The teachers are gaining confidence and reporting how much they are enjoying it, but are obviously missing the school being open.



Here is some more information for you as we end our first week:

- **Free Data** - Hopefully you have applied for the offer of free data to help children to access their learning at home – full details are on our website. The deadline is Monday!
- **No Device?** - Our staff are contacting the parents of children who are not accessing the online learning. If you need support with obtaining a device, please let them know or alternatively phone the school office.
- **Change to your circumstances?** – phone the school office if you feel you might be entitled to Free School Meal vouchers
- **Learning Packs for wc18th January** – watch this space for the arrangements for collecting your child's next Learning Pack from school. For safety, we will be allocating a time slot and outside location for each year group to pop along as part of your daily exercise perhaps, to collect the next pack. Full details to follow.
- **Book Exchange** – we are in the process of organising a book exchange for the children to be able to change their reading books. Full details to follow.
- **Library Pack** – watch this space for details of how to pre-order books for your child to loan, which will be bagged up and made ready for collection.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

MISUSE OF MICROSOFT TEAMS CHAT FUNCTION

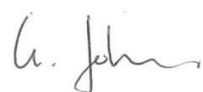
We appreciate this is new to all of us and we are looking at ways to improve things. There have been some instances of children logging into teams and inappropriately chatting to their friends during and after their teacher session has finished. We have discovered that some children have been doing this in the early hours of the morning! Please be vigilant and ensure you are monitoring when your child has access to their devices. All 'chats' are recorded so we have been able to share them with parents. We are investigating ways to disable the system out of school hours.

Just a separate little note, if you contact a member of staff through Teams with a message. Please do not expect a response that evening as I have instructed the staff to switch off from their work duties out of hours, to relax and unwind ready for the next day. As you may know if you are working from home, the boundaries between work and home become blurred if we let them.

So, well done everybody 😊. Keep doing what you are doing to stay safe and happy. Please do not put pressure on yourselves to access the home learning offer. Do whatever it is that you can manage, in a way that suits your household. We will be phoning you regularly to check how things are going and to see if we can support you with anything. If we can help with anything in the meantime, please let us know.

Thanks for everything you are doing and for your support.

Best wishes



Mr Garry Johnson
Head teacher