



Learning to
Succeed

Gladstone Road Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,



Just a few updates for you as we approach the end of our half-term. We have certainly hit the ground running this term. The children have settled well and are demonstrating brilliant achievements in their learning. In lower school particularly, phonics and reading progress is really notable throughout. In upper school particularly, I have had the pleasure of joining subjects such as French, Music, Art, History and Geography. The children are so enthusiastic about their learning and the work in their books is very impressive 🙌😊.

Parent Survey

Thank you to those of you who completed the parent survey. If you haven't yet, it is still on the website and we would encourage you to spare a few minutes to do so. The feedback has been brilliant! We really appreciate the positive messages and the constructive criticism. We have been in touch with parents on an individual basis with any points raised that are specific to their child. 🙏🙏

Absence Phone Calls

Through the survey, we have identified a few misconceptions about our new absence procedures, so I just wanted to take this opportunity to reinforce the reasoning behind them. Apologies if this has not been clear. In the spirit of supporting you and your child's mental well-being, I have asked the Inclusion Team to make contact when a child is absent for multiple days in a row. Our Ofsted inspection last year identified areas to develop in terms of Safeguarding procedures for our most vulnerable families, which we have done. However, I wanted to make sure that we are reaching out to all of our absent children, to let them know we are thinking about them and are wishing them well. Also, we have found that in many cases, we have been able to offer support to the grown-ups during these calls too. Apologies if you have felt these calls were intrusive or a way of us 'checking up' on you. My intention is purely to extend our support. Of course, in cases where a child has been absent frequently and is missing lots of learning time, we have carried out separate phone calls/home visits to offer support and to reinforce the importance of being in school if well enough to attend. Please do contact me if you have any questions or concerns about any contact you have received, as I am keen to understand your views and take the feedback onboard.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE – TikTok, Squid Game and Online safety

This week I have joined the KS2 assemblies to talk to the children about keeping themselves safe from viewing inappropriate content, avoiding bullying & harassment and general internet safety. I must say that I was quite surprised and worried to learn from the children that most of them have viewed clips and images from the Squid Game. I wanted to share with you what the children are telling me. In Years 3 and 4, the majority of children said that they have access to TikTok and a YouTube account at home. As we know they are intended for much older children as per the age restrictions. **More worryingly, many children shared that they have seen inappropriate images of violence and nudity.** The good news is that they could all tell me what to do if they receive something inappropriate or if a 'friend' calls them a name or harasses them in anyway. Our mantra in school is:

- ZIP IT (don't share any personal information e.g. name, address, school, family information)
- BLOCK IT (unfriend them, block their number, delete the app etc)
- FLAG IT (tell an adult at home and/or at school)

As always, the team and I are vigilant. We talk to the children continuously about keeping themselves safe on-line and generally. Do please let us know if you are worried about anything straight away so that we can help. It's a shared worry for all of us but by working together and being aware, we will keep our children safe.

Best wishes

Mr Garry Johnson
Head teacher

