

# Garstang Community Primary School



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Dear Parents

Just thought I'd give you a quick update, as this month's newsletter was really for the children—hope they liked it.

Firstly thank you so much for your support over the last few weeks—they have not been easy. I have been teaching for 26 years now and other than a one week closure for snow in the 1990s sometime, I've never known anything like it. It really is very surreal, and I think the 'not knowing' makes things worse. Your support of your children is so clear to see through the messages we see on Google Classroom, and your support of the staff by ensuring that your children are logging on is also much appreciated.

Home learning is difficult for even the most patient and laid back of people and I know there will be times that both you and your children will have found it hard. This will be particularly so if you have more than one child at home vying for your attention and a device! We find it tricky in school too—I have had a KS2 class with each of the year groups in all trying to do their own Google Classroom page. We feel frazzled by it all too. There may be times that you decide that it is too much for your child that day—that's fine. Switch off and try again the next day—just try not to let them get into the habit of having a bad day every day! Encouraging them to log on each day is great and they are able to interact with their class too. I've seen some really lovely examples of the children supporting each other. We hope we have got the content about right—for some it might be a bit too much, for others not enough, but we are trying to cater for everyone without overwhelming you too. There is a wealth of stuff out there for the children to do and it doesn't all have to be school work—I've also seen great examples of real life learning going on too. If you are particularly struggling, please give us a ring at school and we'll see how we can help.

I would like to mention the staff, who have been utterly brilliant. From setting up a brand new (to us) learning platform in a matter of days to ensuring there is work on there every day for your child to do is amazing. They are really enjoying the things your children are sharing with them and trying their hardest to support them remotely. Please can you ensure that your child is reading the instructions for each piece of work carefully and has reread them before they message for help. The staff are more than happy to help, but we are finding that sometimes children are asking a question simply because they haven't read the instructions carefully enough! Please explain to your child that whilst their teacher is working at home, they are also in the majority of cases trying to home school their own children, so they might not respond immediately. But they look at the page constantly through the day to support and help.

The teachers have also begun taking a register each day, just to gauge who is able to access the learning. Many of these consist of a fun question for the children to answer or reflect on. It's a lovely way as well for the children to see who else is there and what they've been up to. There is

know that sometimes they may not get hold of the device needed until later in the day. Hopefully the messages from the teachers reassured them that so long as they are trying their best then that's fine!

Exercise books are available to be collected from school at any time, if you have run out of space. We are working in the back classrooms, so if you don't get a response to the bell, just phone the school number and we'll come out to you.

As to re-opening school—who knows?! I am still hopeful that we will re-open to more children (as we've never actually been shut!) before the summer, but we have not yet been given guidance to what that might look like, other than it will be some kind of phased return. As soon as we are given any kind of guidance we will put a plan in a place to ensure everyone's safe and happy return to school. We will keep you informed.

Once again, thank you for your support over what have proved to be very trying times. It's great to know what a strong school family we are and as a school we can't wait to be back together again, stronger than ever!

Stephanie Reeves  
Headteacher

Some useful links:

[www.pobble365.com](http://www.pobble365.com)

[www.natgeokids.com/uk](http://www.natgeokids.com/uk)

[britishmuseum.withgoogle.com](http://britishmuseum.withgoogle.com)

[www.tate.org.uk/kids](http://www.tate.org.uk/kids)

[www.harpercollinschildrensbooks.co.uk/free-teaching-resources-activities/](http://www.harpercollinschildrensbooks.co.uk/free-teaching-resources-activities/)

[www.cosmickids.com](http://www.cosmickids.com)

[www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/kids-cooking](http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/kids-cooking)

<https://www.children1st.org.uk/help-for-families/parentline-scotland/guidance-advice/>

<https://www.wyre.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/your-health-and-wellbeing/coronavirus/>

<https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/>

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you/>

<https://www.gingerbread.org.uk/coronavirus/>

