



Greenway Primary & Nursery School



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Head Teacher: Katharine Ellwood

Friday 1 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and your families are all safe and well. I feel that Mother Nature has been very kind to us during the lockdown with the beautiful sunshine and I hope that you have managed to find some time to enjoy it. It was never going to last, but I am looking forward to the sun returning soon!

Greenway continues to remain temporarily closed as currently, there has not been a demand amongst key worker parents for school provision. However, this is continually reviewed by us. If you feel that your circumstances have changed and you require key worker school provision then please do contact the school on admin@greenway.herts.sch.uk. This email account is checked daily.

Although they are not generally coming into school, staff are still working and focussing their time on planning home learning for their class, writing the children's school reports, responding to emails, participating in on-line meetings with colleagues, planning for children transitions (joining school, within school and secondary school); and considering what may be required of the school as the lock down eases. Like every other key worker, staff are managing their work commitments alongside their own family circumstances.

School Website

We are conscious of the fact that the school website may not be as user friendly as we would wish during this time and have therefore taken the opportunity to make some adjustments. These should be completed by early next week but will include:

- On the Home Learning page there will be:
 - A new Sports tab, with Mr Lewis's PE curriculum resource;
 - Greenway Birthday Song
- On the school's Home page we will have a new button labelled Well-being, which will provide in one place a range of resources, some of which are currently uploaded on our website eg on the Parents and Pupil tabs.

Home Learning for the fortnight commencing Monday 4 May

I am writing to you to let you know that the next fortnight's set of home learning tasks has been uploaded onto the school website today. A further set of home learning tasks will be made available on the school website on Friday 15 May to start on Monday 18 May.

Your child's class teacher has written another letter to your child(ren) and we have emailed this to you as well as placing it on the school website. Please do read and share this with your child(ren). I have had some lovely feedback on these letters. Tasks have been set for each day for the next two weeks for the following:

- English – Reading, Spellings and Writing,
- Maths
- A curriculum area.

For **Years 1-6**, if possible, we would advise that your child completes one of each of these tasks each day save for English where they should always undertake some Reading plus one other English activity.

For **Nursery and Reception** you will see that there are activities for Phonics, Maths and other areas of learning for you to explore with your children if possible.

We would also recommend that you continue including daily exercise and wellbeing activities alongside these tasks set by us. Mr Lewis has contributed to the curriculum area for each year group and planned a PE learning opportunity/activity alongside the weekly personal challenge. As you know, Mr Lewis has provided a range of resources that can support you and your children at home.

Home Learning Expectations

We appreciate that this is a difficult time for us all and that for many working parents in particular the challenge of supervising home learning as well as carrying out their 'day job' is extremely onerous.

I want to reassure you that I have spent (and continue to spend) a very great deal of time considering the advice and guidance that all schools receive from the DfE along with the daily advice from the Local Authority and the teaching unions plus information from assorted professional bodies. In the current crisis there is an incredible amount of information circulating as everyone tries to make sense of the new situation in which we all find ourselves and act in the best interests of all members of the school community.

I have had some positive feedback from parents as to the home learning that has been provided for your children and also some areas that we might wish to work on. My staff and I review our provision constantly to ensure that it is appropriate for all our families.

I thought it would be helpful to remind you of the following:

- Schools are not expected to replicate a 'normal' school day during the period of lock down;
- Parents are not expected to fill the day with a timetable as if the children were at school – the Government understands that parents are not necessarily teachers and that children will receive differing levels of input from their parents – they will not be receiving a formal education;
- Children of key workers who are attending school are not following a normal timetable;
- Parents know their own circumstances best and consequently need to determine how best to support their child(ren) in completing the home learning tasks suggested – taking into account your child, your other children and your own work commitments but always keeping in mind the balance of work, wellbeing and your family's health;
- Where appropriate please do encourage your child(ren) (particularly in Key Stage 2) to do as much as possible on their own, so that independent learning can be fostered;
- It does not matter if your child(ren) cannot complete all of what has been suggested by school - what is more important is that you and your families remain fit and well both mentally and physically;
- The home learning suggested is designed to consolidate learning as opposed to new teaching – however as the lockdown continues children may well embark upon new concepts via the home learning tasks;
- As discussed at our Welcome to your New Class meeting at the beginning of the academic year education is not a 'race to the top' but ensuring breadth of understanding – as a school (and like every other school in the country) we will be addressing what has not been covered in the curriculum on pupils return to school

Please do not feel that you need to print off everything from the school website. **There is absolutely no expectation from school that you do so.** Everyone's situation is different and the reasons for printing resources are many. Teachers have planned and provided a variety of home learning tasks on the website for parents to choose from with their child depending on the circumstances of that family for that day. If you have any issues with accessing any of the resources please do not hesitate to contact us at admin@greenway.herts.sch.uk.

Additional Resources

There are of course a huge number of resources available to families in addition to what is being provided by the school. No doubt you have seen some of them!

Teachers have identified various links to sites within the home learning tasks for their class but I thought it might be helpful just to highlight that after the Easter break the DfE announced that it has created an on-line learning 'Oak Academy' – www.thenational.academy and they have also recommended the use of the BBC Bitesize – www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize These are two resources which you may feel are useful to you.

Emailing teachers

I had suggested in my last letter that children might wish to send an email to their teacher over the course of the past fortnight with a message, picture or email to show them something that your child is proud of. It has been lovely to read, see and explore all the activities that you have been sharing with your child's class teacher although we have been surprised by the comparatively small number of emails received – we had thought we might be inundated which had caused the suggestion to email once over the fortnight. There is absolutely no requirement that you and your child send an email but speaking on behalf of my staff, I know that we were all really looking forward to seeing what the children have been doing during lockdown. Teachers will of course respond to those emails.

If you need to email teachers or me separately about anything and in particular your child's home learning then please do so at admin@greenway.herts.sch.uk.

Free School Meals

I am very aware that some family's financial circumstances have rapidly changed during this crisis. I would therefore like to remind you that you can go to www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals which will allow you to find out more information about free school meals and if you are eligible.

Of course, if you have any questions or need to contact the school then please continue to email admin@greenway.herts.sch.uk.

The Governors and I would like to thank you for your continued support and understanding during this very difficult time.

Please stay safe.

Regards
Katharine Ellwood
Headteacher

