



Goldenhill Primary Academy



Head teacher: Mr. S Martin BA (Hons).NPQH

"Everyone shines at Goldenhill"

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Friday 12th June 2020

Dear Parent and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you well.

I would like to start by thanking all parents and carers for their support since the academy closed in March for the vast majority of our children, your kind comments, and support is really appreciated during these difficult times.

Over the past two weeks, in line with the UK government's guidelines, we have successfully welcomed back children from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. The children have been amazing and have adapted really well. They are a credit to you and the academy. I would like to thank the staff who have worked incredibly hard to prepare the academy for what is becoming the 'new normal' at this time. The support, patience and understanding of parents, as we all get used to the many changes, including staggered start times, one way systems and social distancing markers, just to name a few, is really appreciated.

As you are aware, on Tuesday 9th June, the government announced that it no longer intends for schools to further increase its opening for its remaining year groups (Years 2, 3, 4 & 5) before the end of the summer term. The government has realised that schools, who have been asked to teach children in class sizes no greater than 15, do not have either the physical space in terms of teaching rooms or staff to accommodate all year groups and as a result would not be realistic.

This does mean that for many of our children, they have not seen or spoken to their friends, peers or teachers since March and will not get this opportunity until September (at the earliest). This can have a negative impact of their self-esteem, mental health and confidence.

In addition to the home learning resources and activities that the children currently access from the academy website, under the class tab (<https://www.goldenhillprimary.co.uk/class-pages/>), which will continue for all year groups, I would like to inform you that the following will continue, with some additional provisions to start from next week:

- Weekly phone calls to identified families
- A minimum of one weekly text message to all children per week.
- Access to 1:1 phone calls for children if you feel they are especially struggling and/or would benefit from a member staff contacting them. If you require this, please contact the academy office. Please note, we will respond to requests as soon as possible.
- Parents can continue to email good news stories to the academy (office@goldenhillprimary.org.uk) to share your children's achievements
- We will provide some degree of acknowledgment and feedback to children when they submit work via online platforms e.g. Purple Mash.
- A weekly class ZOOM session (for children). This will be for 20 minutes once a week (Years 1-6)
- A weekly head teachers blog (found on the academy website)

If you do not already, you will need to download the ZOOM application on your computer, laptop or device. You will be sent a text with the link and password for the meeting. For the vast majority of classes, these will take place on a Friday morning, with the exception of year 3, which will take place on a Thursday pm. Please note, that these days are subject to change and you will be informed of the date and time of the meeting via text message.



The following sites provide guidance, practical support and resources to support children during these challenging times:

NHS Every Mind Matters: https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/?WT.tsrc=Search&WT.mc_id=MentalHealthGeneric&gclid=EAlaIQobChMlr4L464b46QIVDeztCh1wsArUEAAYASAAEgKLwvD_BwE

Kids Dot Calm: <https://kidsdotcalm.com/>

Young Minds: <https://youngminds.org.uk/>

NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/>

Yours sincerely,

Please take care and keep safe.

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Mr. S Martin

Head Teacher

