

Thursday 7TH January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and I hope you enjoyed the Christmas holiday albeit different to our usual celebrations.

The government announcement on Monday evening gave us very little time to organise our provision for the lockdown. We would like to thank everyone for your patience and understanding as we begin this new term. We really appreciate the difficulties that this situation has imposed on our school community. Unfortunately, in order to operate as safely as possible, we have had to set a limit on the number of children in school. This has been done by following government guidance, agreement from the MAT and the physical space we have in classrooms. We would like to assure you that each class has been allocated places based upon the same criteria.

Registration

The morning **register** is the most important part of the school day. It is a statutory requirement that we have “live” contact with the children on a daily basis. Registers will be completed using the Teams platform. At this time we will be checking that the children have access to the day’s learning and carrying out our statutory safeguarding and wellbeing checks. If your child does not attend registration there will be a follow up phone call. We will need to speak to the child. If we have not had sight of a child during the week we will do a home visit to fulfil our duty of care responsibilities.

Remote Learning

Thank you for your positive feedback about the speed and quality of remote learning we have provided as an immediate response to the national lock down. Please contact us via **email** if you have any difficulties with logins or accessing work.

We are now required, by law, to provide remote learning and monitor work produced by providing feedback (as we would do in school). Please make sure that you upload work onto seesaw following learning input. **This should be limited to 1 upload per lesson.** We will make contact if work is not uploaded as we are required to ensure that remote learning is taking place. Lessons are recorded so that you can access them at your convenience.

If you are having difficulty with devices or data we do have a small number of laptops and data sim cards for tablets which we can provide, on loan. A loan agreement will need to be signed in case of damage or misuse and parental controls will need to be set in accordance with the remote learning agreement for online safeguarding. We will contact you next week to allocate them.

Please see the remote learning agreement which was sent in November. This is reminder of our expectations in particular behaviour and safeguarding.

Celebration and Achievements

In Class achievement assemblies were held on Friday 18th December. The following children received awards:

Reception – Daisy and Isla

Year 1 – Isaac and George

Year 2 – Leila and Louie

Year 3 – Angelina and Oliver Q

Year 4 – Kian and Hollie
Year 5 – Daniel and Lacey
Year 6 – All of Year 6

School Meals

We do apologise for the inconvenience this week of our food provider deleting already entered school meals.

We therefore ask parents of those children who are attending school to re-enter their child's choices or provide your child with a packed lunch. Those parents who are entitled to FSM, a hamper form has been sent out to you.

Reporting Covid Cases

Please make sure you let us know immediately if your child has tested positive as we need to act quickly to inform Public Health England as well as inform parents and staff of any necessary closures and isolation requirements. Please email gca-enquiries@ipmat.co.uk.

Positive Covid Tests and Self Isolation

The government recommend that the NHS COVID 19 App is downloaded. If you test positive or are identified as a contact of someone who has recently tested positive for COVID-19, you will receive an email/text alert from the NHS Test and Trace Service advising that you must now self-isolate as soon as possible and stay at home. The message will advise the date of the isolation period and it is a legal duty to comply with this. Schools will be asking staff and parents to provide evidence of the need to self-isolate so that an accurate record can be kept in school.

If you have any issues providing this information, please email gca-enquiries@ipmat.co.uk

Picture News

Please find attached this week's Picture News poster. Picture News is a resource used in school to promote discussion around current issues. Each week there is a homework activity with an image and a question. We would encourage you to talk about this at home with the children. There are no right or wrong answers, it is a forum for discussion.



Mrs C Harris
Head of School



Mrs P Gill
Deputy Head of School

| <u>Upcoming Diary Dates</u> | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Dates | Event | Who is it for? |
| Friday 12 th February | Break up for half term | All children |
| Monday 22 February | INSET | |
| Tuesday 23 February | School returns | |

Gawthorpe Community Academy **Remote Learning Agreement** **UPDATED 16.11.20**

This document provides further information and expectations regarding whole-class and whole-school isolation.

What to expect:

Each class will have a live register (Reception from Wednesday). You will receive a TEAMS notification.

Your teacher will inform you via SeeSaw about your daily learning. Each year group will be slightly different due to the circumstances.

Upload ONE post or piece of work per activity that your teacher will give feedback on.

MICROSOFT TEAMS

For those Year Groups and children taking part in TEAMS LIVE LESSONS:

All cameras are now set to off.

We ask that children remain muted until told otherwise to ensure all children can hear.

Children can use the hand icon if they need to ask a question. The teacher or teaching assistant will attend to this at an appropriate time.

Live lesson material is for each year groups use only.

Anyone not following the live learning contract will be removed from the lesson and a phone call home will be made.



Picture News

at Home

4th January 2021

What's going on this week?



It is thought that thousands of pets were 'panic bought' at the start of the first lockdown. The Battersea Dogs and Cats Home charity have warned that the number of dogs abandoned over the next five years could increase by 27%. The charity, which rehomes animals in London and the surrounding area, surveyed 2,000 dog and cat owners who acquired a new pet during the national lockdown. It found 31% had done so despite not having considered getting a dog or cat before.

Things to talk about at home...

- 🌱 Do you have any pets? If you do, do you enjoy being a pet owner? How do you take care of your pet? Is it a lot of work? If not, would you like to own a pet?
- 🌱 Why do you think lots of people may have bought pets at the start of the lockdown period?
- 🌱 Do you think that there should be age restrictions or other rules on who can buy pets?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments here...



Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others on our discussion board: www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss