



# Little Gaddesden C of E Primary School

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and safe. I am writing this sitting in a quiet school, in the strangest situation imaginable. This was certainly not how I envisaged beginning my new role. Despite the many challenges we are currently facing, we can at least be grateful for the glorious weather and I hope you are managing to enjoy it when you out for your daily exercise. I have also been enjoying the Joe Wicks exercise stream most mornings.

At moment we have no further indication as to how long this situation is likely to continue, however the teachers will continue to share learning resources and activities with you which I hope your children are enjoying.

We do not expect you to be replicating the school day, which can be particularly challenging for families where parents are also working from or where several people are having to negotiate access to technology. It is probably useful to try, where possible, to establish a routine, which will of course look different for each family. It is important to remember that all your well-being is equally important. If you can manage something more formal for part of the day celebrate it.

As well as online activities, traditional games such as cards and dominoes offer a range of learning opportunities. Equally tidy-up challenges!

We are currently looking at more effective means to share work with you, particularly regarding more personalised learning. I am also aware that not only are your children missing contact with each other but also the regular contact and encouragement of their class teachers. I am working on ways to achieve this safely for all our pupils and will be in contact next week regarding an update on this – please bear with me.

No doubt you will have seen the BBC article from today detailing some dreadfully upsetting security breaches with some online video conferencing. Consequently, I know that you will appreciate the need to ensure pupils are safe when online, ensuring that we are following guidance from the government and Hertfordshire.

Below are links that provide clear guidance and support during the lockdown, particularly regarding being safe online. Both 'Think you know' and 'Safer internet' have short accessible activities that children can engage with to support e-safety.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

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

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

The school will be open next week for a few pupils and I look forward to sharing how we are managing the learning.

Keep well and stay safe

Lorna Elkes

Headteacher