



# Little Gaddesden C of E Primary School

Headteacher: Lorna Elkes

Newsletter 4th February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for all your continued support of your children to enable them to continue to engage in remote learning. We are almost at half term!

I am very conscious of the amount of screen time, pupils are now involved in and alongside that are concerns around online safety. There are a range of links on our website to support families with online safety. [Online Safety Links](#) In addition Herts for Learning have produced a [HfL online safety newsletter for parents and carers spring 2021.pdf](#).

## Touch Typing for KS2 pupils

As we in an increasingly digital age, keyboard skills such as touch typing, become very useful. It can also support spelling knowledge. Therefore I have arranged touch typing accounts for all pupils in years 3,4, 5 and 6 through [Learn to Type | Free Typing Tutor - Typing.com](#) . Pupils logon details are the same as their Google accounts without the [@littlegaddesden.herts.sch.uk](mailto:@littlegaddesden.herts.sch.uk) and the initial password is Gaddesden.

Eg.

[15Jasont@littlegaddesden.herts.sch.uk](mailto:15Jasont@littlegaddesden.herts.sch.uk) would have a username of 15Jasont

Like all skills this is best practiced little and often. As well as keyboard drills there are games to play to help reinforce practice. Those who can practice 10 minutes daily will soon see a significant improvement in their typing speed.

## Parent Survey

In order to ensure we are doing the best for your child(ren) we need to understand how we are performing as a school. The Governors have prepared some questions as part of a regular cycle of feedback, the results of which will be reviewed by the Governors and the school to help us understand the needs of the parents / children better. You can make your responses anonymous if you wish, to ensure you feel comfortable to speak your mind, but if you would like us to respond to you directly, do be sure to add your details at the end. It would be helpful if you could confirm which year your child(ren) are in.

You can access the survey via the following link: <https://forms.gle/jobTTrtBUDqFqjoF7>

We would encourage you to complete the questionnaire which should take less than 5 minutes. We would ask if you can please submit your responses by the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

## **Message from The Friends**

Hello from the friends committee, we hope you're all coping in these strange times. If anyone is having to isolate and needs help with shopping or just needs to chat on the end of a phone one of us is always here to help. Just get in contact through your class whatsapp, you're not alone.

Each week through lockdown we will be posting a family quiz, crossword or an activity to do. Have a go, hopefully it will bring a little cheer to your day.

This week's challenge is a family quiz. [Virtual Quiz Night - Time for Trivia](#)

So after the amazing efforts of Class 1 fundraiser, Class 2 are stepping up to the challenge of their fundraising.

Class 2 are going to be running an event that involves everyone in school, family and friends. We are wanting you to get out into the fresh air over half term and clock up those miles, on foot, bike or horse. However you would like! (Covid rules apply)

We are going to try and get Little Gaddesden School from Golden Valley all the way across the world to Silicon Valley in the states. Whilst raising as much sponsorship money on the way!

Starter packs will be left out on Tuesday and Thursday next week at book swap times; But also we will be sending you all links to these packs and *justgiving* page, for those who won't be able to pick them up in person. This is a really exciting event for our February half term!

Don't forget to use Amazon smile, and easy fundraising with all our online shopping we are doing at the moment.

Also just a little reminder if any mums or dads fancy taking up the role of Chair, or joining forces as Co- Chair in September, please feel free to contact the committee directly.

Stay safe and well, take care 'The Friends Committee'.

## **Free learning resources from Hertfordshire Libraries**

Knowing where to find free and reliable information resources is an important part of education. The library offers a gateway to such resources and Hertfordshire Libraries can help, particularly in these times of online learning.

Our [Reference Library Online](#) has a range of resources that library members (it's free to join) can use for free at home, or anywhere. They are perfect for helping with homework, research, study, or just for fun. All the resources are reliable and from trusted and established publishers.

Here's a quick introduction to just some of the online resources you and your students may find most useful:

- Britannica Online - the online version of the complete Encyclopaedia Britannica. There are three versions available depending on students' level: junior (suitable for Key stage 1 & 2), student (suitable for Key stage 3 & 4) and adult (Key stage 4 & 6th Form)
- Credo Reference – this is like having your own reference library, ideal for research projects and homework. Search or browse over 1300 subject-specific titles from reputable publishers. This is aimed more at older students, but it also includes 66 titles from DK Eyewitness collection, suitable for younger students.
- Oxford English Dictionary and Oxford Dictionaries Pro – dictionaries from Oxford University Press, to explore the English language with expert guidance on style, usage, grammar and spelling. This also includes French, Spanish, German, Italian, Russian, Chinese, Arabic and Portuguese dictionaries
- Archive newspapers – search or browse a digital version of newspapers (the Times 1785-2014, the Sunday Times 1822-2006, Illustrated London News 1842-2003). This would be most suitable for older students, particularly to see how past events were reported. This resource could be used for History, Media Studies, English, and Social Studies.

One important point: due to the terms and conditions attached to the resources, we are not allowed to offer school memberships. Only individual library members can access them. Anyone can join for free at [spydus.co.uk](http://spydus.co.uk), though children under 16 will need a parent or guardian to sign up for them.

### **COVID update.**

Hertfordshire have requested that schools are notified if you or any member of your family have COVID symptoms or test positive over the half term period. Whilst I appreciate this is more relevant to pupils who are in school, please do inform the school so that we can ensure support is available. [covidnotice@littlegaddesden.herts.sch.uk](mailto:covidnotice@littlegaddesden.herts.sch.uk)

As you may be aware in the press, primary schools staff are now able to take advantage of twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests which are designed to identify people who may be asymptomatic.

Lorna Elkes  
Headteacher

### **Attached:**

[HfL online safety newsletter for parents and carers spring 2021.pdf](#)

Touch typing Link <https://www.typing.com/>

Parent survey <https://forms.gle/jobTTrtBUDqFqjoF7>

From the Friends [Virtual Quiz Night - Time for Trivia](#)