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## School Closure Weekly Update

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents,

With the end of term just around the corner, this is our last weekly school closure update (I hope). What a journey we have had over the last 4 months! It's hard to believe how many changes we have all had to deal with and how much life has been turned upside down in so many ways.

I would like to send you all a very sincere and heartfelt thank you on behalf of the whole Godinton team for all your patience and cooperation. Your kind messages and words of appreciation have been of great support to us all and have meant a lot. I know how hard many of you have worked to support your children at home whilst juggling so many other commitments – thank you for the part you have played in keeping things going.

Our children have been utterly brilliant. It has been lovely to see all of those who have been in for the after school sessions so far. I hope that they have enjoyed reconnecting with their friends and teachers and are looking forward to coming back to school in September.

I would also like to thank all our staff who have worked so hard with ever changing routines over the past few months. Having to rethink virtually every aspect of school life has been no easy task and I am grateful to them for all they have done for our school.

**I hope that you all have a restful summer and I very much look forward to seeing all our school community back together in September.**



### Message for the Children...

Hi everyone,

This is our last school closure update as next week we break up for the summer holidays. I went down to the beach last weekend which was lovely – I think I'm going to enjoy spending a bit more time there in the holiday.

I just wanted to let you all know how immensely proud I am of you all – whether you have been at home or at school you have all been wonderful. When I wrote to you all on the 20<sup>th</sup> March when school closed, I said that I hoped that we wouldn't be closed for very long. I never imagined that it would be September before we reopened. I know that for some of you this will have seemed like a very long time but the end is in sight and it won't be long before we're all back together again.

Have a wonderful summer.

Smiles to you all

Miss Talbot

## End of Term

Places for key worker children for next week have now been booked in with Mrs Partridge. Thank you to all of you who have been able to keep your children at home next week in order for us to be able to accommodate Year 6. We have 58 of our Year 6 children returning for the last 2 days of term which is brilliant. We can't wait to see them all and to give them a special end to their time at Godinton. A letter is being sent out to all Year 6 parents today outlining information about the last two days of term.

Several parents have asked about bringing in end of term gifts for staff. I know that the staff are always very touched by kind acts of appreciation at the end of year but this is certainly not an expectation. If the children would like to bring something in for their teacher, with the exception of Year 6, please can this wait until the children finish with their current teacher in September. On behalf of all the staff, please can I thank you for the cards and kind wishes we have already been sent over the past few months.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July is an INSET day and school will be closed to all pupils.

## Arrangements for Next Year

On Monday, you will receive a ParentMail outlining the practical arrangements for September. This will include details of drop off and pick up times, what the children will need to bring to school and the arrangements for Breakfast Club. There will be a lot of detail in this, so make yourself a cup of tea and take some time to read through and digest. Please get in touch if there is anything that you are unsure about. This information will also be put on the school closure page on the school website.

The Breakfast Club information will require immediate attention in order to register your interest in a place for your child in September. Places will be limited. We are in the final stages of looking at the logistics in order that we can maximise the number of places we are able to offer safely, whilst working within the parameters of the guidance.

Please also keep your eye on ParentMail over the holiday. I will send out some reminders as we approach the start of term and will of course let you know if revised Government guidance means that any of our plans have to change.

## Reading Books

Please can you have a good look at home for any school reading books that you might have? We are in short supply of books in school and need these to be returned to us in September.

## **Unexpected Adventure Trail Work**

The teachers would love to see any Unexpected Adventure Trail work that the children have completed during school closure. If your child would like to bring their book in, they can do so on the first day of term so their teacher will have a look through – we won't have the capacity to mark every piece of work but the teachers will share their feedback with the children. This book will then be sent home with their other school books on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

Some parents have asked whether the Unexpected Adventure Trails will stay on the website during the summer holiday in case their children want to dip in some tasks that they haven't yet completed. We will leave the last two trails on the website but other content will be taken down.

## **Summer Holiday Task**

The children in current Year R to 5, have been set the challenge of producing a piece of summer holiday homework in connection with the name of the new class they will be going into in September. This can be brought into school when the children move onto their new teacher. We look forward to seeing what you create.

## **Uniform Collection**

Any uniform ordered prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> July from our online supplier can be collected from the school car park on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July between 10–11 a.m. if you have opted for collection rather than home delivery.

Any subsequent orders can be collected from the school car park on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August between 10.00 and 12.00 if you opt for collection rather than home delivery.

I would suggest that any uniform orders required for September are placed as soon as possible in order to allow time for your order to be processed.

## **Earrings**

Please remember that only small stud earrings can be worn to school and that these must be removed for PE activities. If you are thinking of getting your child's ears pierced, please do this at the start of the holidays so that earrings will be able to be removed for PE in September.

# Wellbeing News... From Mrs Stein and Mrs McGibney

Kindness is all around if you look for it, but if it isn't, then you can do something about it. All you have to do is get some coloured 'POST IT' notes and begin the kindness revolution. At the dead of night or early morning if you're an early bird.... Write kind messages on your post its and hide them in lunch boxes, under pillows, in the fridge, on a place mat or even in the shed.

Each note should leave the finder feeling great. Start with... "Thanks for all your help, good job!" "You're amazing, you make me smile." (Sock drawers are perfect places for hiding a kindness note.) ☺

## **FAMILY FUN ~ Celebration time!**

Great news, we can now hang out with more members of our family and friends. Here's a great idea....Think about who you haven't yet managed to see since lockdown, send them a written invite or message, asking them to join you for a celebration of being able to see each other again. Next, create your own fruit flavoured drinks with fruit juice, chopped fruit and mint leaves. Then prepare a small selection of crisps and other nibbles. Once they have arrived and settled down, offer them your delicious beverage creations and nibbles. When you are through, why not play a game of Headbandz and guess which character you are. If you don't have a headbandz game, just put a character's name on a post it note and stick that on a forehead!

## **CHILDRENS' CHALLENGE!**

Caterpillar racing – (no not real ones! You'll have to make your own.)

Cut a piece of A4 paper into long strips, 5cm width. Then each person needs to fold their strip in half, then fold each half in half again. Next, fold the halves together to make a small rectangle. Now carefully cut the edges of your shape off. Once you've done that, open it up and you should have your very own caterpillar. Give it eyes and mouth for the face, then colour in the tail. Now all you have to do is use something to flap it along the floor or a table and see who wins! You could make them move even faster by flapping a chopping board, hard backed book or whiteboard behind them!

## **SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...**

Have you ever considered that your wellbeing could impact on your child's? It's important to look after your own mental health so that you can care for your child's wellbeing. Take some time this week to focus on something that is good for your own mental health. You will feel better for it and your child will notice it too.

## **Latest Government Guidance**

The latest Government guidance on Coronavirus can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Please remember to notify the school in the event that your child demonstrates symptoms of coronavirus or if they are self-isolating as someone in their household has symptoms and is undergoing testing.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind Regards

Jill Talbot

Headteacher