**St Gregory’s C E Primary School**

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**Headteacher: Mrs Debbie Field**

 **“Where learning has no limits”**

10th January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

**Wow – last week was certainly full of challenges, changes, learning, technology, mask wearing and wondering what was going to happen next?!?!?!**

I hope that you have been able to enjoy some time to relax as a family over this weekend, and that everyone in your family is staying safe and well. I appreciate that this is (another) difficult time for everyone. Thank you for all the comments and messages of support for the staff and the school over an ‘interesting’ first week of term. These have been very much appreciated by us all at Team St Gregory’s,

I cannot thank the staff at St Gregory’s enough for their commitment towards organising at such short notice – home learning for all alongside teaching all our key worker children. They have been required to learn very quickly aspects of technology which they haven’t used before, adapt to change at a moment’s notice whilst as a priority keeping the children in their bubbles safe, ensuring they feel secure and also keeping themselves safe.

The Governors of the school have been kept informed of what has been taking place and I thank them for their support.

Another Thank you I want to give is for my wonderful Christmas gifts. It seems ages ago now but they were immensely appreciated, very kind of families to think of me and made me smile on Christmas day.

 Critical Workers Update:

We have had a significantly greater number of places requested for the childcare provision in school. Many thanks to the families who have already contacted me to let me know they will be looking at managing their shift patterns as critical workers to try and make sure their children don’t have to come in every day. The more we can minimise the number of people in the school building this half-term, the lower the risk of transmission for everyone in our St Gregory’s community. The Department for Education (DfE) Children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable Children guidance was updated Friday evening stating:

 “parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can”.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We are pleased to be further developing our home learning from the Lockdown in the Summer. By now you will have received all your home learning information and your login details to our online learning platform – Microsoft Teams. There will be a variety of learning being delivered in different ways: online face 2 face teaching, pre-recorded lessons, work to complete through activities, practical and written and opportunities to have conversations with teachers. Please engage with the learning as best as you can and appropriate to your family circumstances.

Our Microsoft Teams online platform is a huge learning curve for some of the staff. They only had training last Wednesday!! Please bear with us if things don’t always go according to plan or work immediately. Your patience and understanding will go a long way in helping staff. If you have any tech issues and are unable to access things – please don’t panic – we are no experts and may need to ask our technical support but we will hopefully get things sorted for you quickly and efficiently. Please remember teachers are not expected to pick up e mails at a weekend – they need to have time for themselves but are accessible during the working week.

DfE guidance The Department for Education published a blog on Thursday giving further guidance for schools re. remote learning. You can read the blog using this link:

<https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/01/08/what-should-remote-education-look-like-how-can-your-child-learn-remotely-if-you-dont-have-a-laptop-we-answer-your-remote-learning-questions/>

 My daughter Alice – who has a degree in Musical Theatre and Performing Arts – will be doing some online fitness / relaxation with classes across the school. This will also be offered to children learning at home. She is DBS checked and many of the children know her from coming into school to do drama / help in classes. When she zooms in there will be a member of staff present in each class. I am sure the children will enjoy seeing someone different, keeping fit and learning some relaxation techniques to help them through this time.

**Woodland Wonders:**

**Breakfast club** – 8.15am every morning next week. Please book via e mail or message school mobile.

**After School club** – 3.15 – 4.15pm – Monday – Thursday next week. We will be keeping this under review each week – for consideration of the staff and children.

**School Website:**

Please use the website – it has all the up to date information and you can access any of my newsletters.

 I will be out and about delivering various things to families tomorrow. If you require anything from school please let me know and I will happily add you to my list for a doorstep drop off! In the previous lockdown I found this very worthwhile as it gave me the opportunity to see some of our children and to chat to parents who maybe had worries which they would rather discuss face to face.

Rev’d Gaenor will be continuing with her Zoom Worship every Monday. This will be to all children in school and to those at home. The first one will be this coming Monday at 2.40pm – for a 2.45pm start.

Meeting ID: 828 6844 4812

Password: 529520

I hope lots of you can join us.

Please see below a message from Rev’d Gaenor….

Dear Parents

Happy new year! What a year we’ve had and what a year ahead!

One of the prayers that I introduced to the weekly school worship we began on Zoom back in September was this: All of my life, in every season, you are still God.

For me it summarises the importance of faith and trust in God who knows us, loves us and is there for us- whatever season of life we are in and whatever age we are. And as we continue to live in a world constantly changed by covid this can only be handled with prayer.

To maintain a living faith can be hard in the easiest of times but when there are many challenges, we can lose the perspective that God is interested in every aspect of my life-whether in my family, school, work, finances, friendships or hobbies. We can think that God is only interested in us when we go to church (or if we go to church) or when we pray or when we are doing good things.

We can think that God only ‘arrives’ in certain people’s lives, maybe only those we think are saintly…!

But this short prayer reminds us that God is interested in every aspect of our lives, that God is for every season of our lives (and not just for Christmas!) and that the baby Jesus grew up to be a man who showed the world what God’s love looks like, he is the focus of the way that God deals with humanity in all its messiness.

All of my life, in every season, you are still God.

For me this prayer summarises the importance of faith and trust in God who knows us, loves us and is there for us- whatever season of life we are in. May you and your family know the God who loves you in this coming year.

Do have a look at Facebook@stgregstea which I have set up to support local families at this time.

With my prayers for you all.

Every blessing

Revd Gaenor

St Gregory’s Church.

gaenor@protonmai.com

01258 821605

You can also find thoughts, ideas and support from: www.stgregorysmarnhull.org.uk

Facebook@stgregschurch

St Gregory’s church will be open to visit:

Wednesdays 9-11am and Sundays 2-4pm

Sunday at 10 service and Zoom coffee at 11 information can be found on the Facebook@stgregschurch web page

**Reminders:**

The office will be open Monday – Wednesday for phone calls.

If you need to speak with me or contact me for any reason – please do so

* via my e mail:

head@stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk

* school landline **01258 820206**
* txt or call on **07756179096** school mobile – due to the high number of messages I am sometimes receiving – it is not always possible to reply to each one individually. Please assume they have been read and dealt with. If there are questions to be answered then you will receive a response but if just booking children in – then please assume I have put them on lists. Thank you

**As always my thoughts are with and your families**

**Stay safe**

**Warmest wishes**

**Debbie Field**