**St Gregory’s C E Primary School**

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**Headteacher: Mrs Debbie Field**

**“Where learning has no limits”**

23rd April 2020



Dear Parents / Carers

**WELCOME back to the SUMMER TERM **

I hope you all had a lovely Easter and welcome to our very first remote summer term! Although we still can’t all be together this does not mean we are not thinking of each other. It certainly is very strange to be writing this letter – without the normal echoing of chatter and laughter in the corridors and visitors to my office – all of which I love. 

We’ve all had to adapt to new ways of working, so on behalf of the staff and myself I wanted to take the opportunity to say what an amazing job you’re all doing supporting your child’s wellbeing and learning during this time.

It’s definitely been a strange and challenging time and looks to continue for a while yet - so it’s ok if you and your child feel wobbly and worried at the moment. We’re here for you every step of the way as we figure this all out together. Remember, if you have any concerns about helping your child learn or you need any other support from the school, please let us know by either contacting me on head@stgregorymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk or mobile:07756179096 or please feel free to e mail individual class teachers.

We miss the children very much but we must follow the government’s guidance to keep everyone in our community safe. Therefore, we’re carrying on at present with opening the school as and when needed for children of x2 critical workers or children with an EHCP. We have been open throughout the period of ‘lockdown’ including the Easter holidays – staff have been amazing and working on a rota system. Any children who have been in school have been doing a number of different activities – PE / kite making / drawing tutorials / online learning / painting benches on the field / pond dipping – generally having fun and getting outside as much as possible.

 I have also been out and about visiting some families regularly - it has been wonderful to see the smiling faces of the children and have a chat – even though from the doorstep!!

Next week all families will receive a phone call from their individual class teachers. Just to say ‘hello’ and check that everyone is ok. 

Staff are working hard to send home packs each week. We have met online and discussed across the school what is being sent. Please let either myself or class teachers know if you have any problems with these. PLEASE DO NOT put yourself or the children under pressure to complete everything. Work can be completed as and when. We totally understand that parents are not ‘teachers’ and will at times struggle (particularly upper KS2) with some of the learning – if you are unsure and your child cannot do it independently then DO NOT worry. All we ask is that your child is accessing some learning at home. Please use the websites sent to you by teachers – they are really very good – for eg. KS1 for reading books I would highly recommend ‘Oxford Owls’ website – you can go to the level your child is on and there are numerous online books. If anyone is struggling with access to an IPad / laptop I have a few which I would be happy to lend out for the period of lockdown. Please email me and I will arrange delivery.

Concerns about children falling behind in their learning are inevitable but WE WILL deal with this when school resumes normally. For now please just enjoy the time with your children and appreciate the importance of ‘life skills’ such as cooking, gardening, designing, making, staying healthy, building independence, resilience and conversation – are ALL SO IMPORTANT!!

Seeing some of the children’s activities and learning on Google classroom is fantastic – I know that Badgers class now have their own online classroom!! I will continue to put up messages and photos for everyone to see. A reminder of the access code: ctm623s – share anything!!

I can’t say yet when we’ll be able to open the school fully, but rest assured that we’ll continue doing our utmost to keep your child learning, our school community connected and I will update you as soon as I know more.

For the moment your child needs you to be the calm, the secure and the laughter in their lives as they have been away from their friends and teachers for many weeks now. I am sure there have been and will be frazzled times ahead  - we’ve all had them - but…………… **KEEP SMILING** and remember that **St Gregory’s is here to support you** 

Thinking of you all and really looking forward to when we can be together again as a community.

Stay well our precious families and keep in touch.

Let’s get cracking with our summer term!

**Warmest wishes**

**Debbie Field**

**&**

**ALL the staff at St Gregory’s.**

