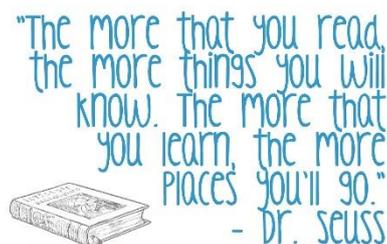


Gilberdyke Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 9 October 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

Catch-up Curriculum

Since our full re-opening in September we have focussed on ensuring that the educational gaps in knowledge and skills that may have emerged for many children during the school closure are being plugged, especially in the core areas of reading, writing and maths. Whilst the planned curriculum is continuing, staff and the wonderful team of volunteers we have accrued are maximising every opportunity and every minute of the school day to practise skills like reading fluently, spelling, grammar and learning times tables. Your child would benefit further by reading regularly at home (just a few pages) and spending short amounts of time practising spellings, times tables and/or number facts. Homework is never intended to be for long periods of time and should not be a battle so short sharp bursts of practising spellings on a car journey or reading a few pages of their reading book before tea works wonders.

Many thanks to those families who have prioritised reading at home, especially in the Starlings and Finches classes since September. We have noticed a huge increase in the pupil's progress, their confidence and their motivation to show off their new skills to so many adults around school!

Our Covid-19 Recovery Plan can be found on the school website (home page), outlining the numerous ways we are catching up on the educational gaps that have emerged and how we are supporting our pupils emotionally and socially as they re-integrate back to school life.



Parent Consultations

We are planning our autumn term parent consultations for the week of Monday 16 November. Further details about arrangements and timings will follow after October half term. The purpose of the meetings will be to speak to every child's family about how they have settled back into school life and their new year group/class and how their learning is progressing.

These consultations will not be face to face but via phone call or a video call platform like Zoom/ Microsoft Teams.

Mrs Joplin has been able to conduct some successful SEN reviews over the last week using this platform and we are confident that, whilst it is not in the style of our open school and community feel, it offers us a virtual face to face opportunity to speak about your child and his/her achievements and progress.

Warmth

Following government guidance and in line with our school risk assessment, there is a need for us to keep classrooms and shared indoor spaces well ventilated, therefore keeping some (not all) windows open. This will remain in place even as the weather turns colder. The heating is on and, as the weather gets colder, will remain on throughout the day.

Please send your child in an extra layer (or two) underneath his/her school t-shirt as a first measure if they feel cold due to the windows being open. We will continue to monitor the

temperature in classrooms and ensure that children and their learning are not affected by this situation.

PTFA

Please see separate letters about events and the AGM.

The committee have set up a Facebook group which we warmly invite you to join. It's called; Gilberdyke Primary School PTFA. The purpose of the group is to network, gather ideas and organise volunteers for events when needed.



Forgotten Items

Just a polite reminder from the school office: to reduce the amount of contact between our bubbles, can you please check that your child has everything they need for the day before coming into school. Every time that a packed lunch box/coat/PE kit/homework etc, is forgotten we have to enter class bubbles to take these items. We understand that this is not intentional, however we want to reduce the amount of contact between the bubbles within school and your support in this is very much appreciated.

Many thanks for your feedback, sharing of ideas and suggestions at this current time – we welcome an open dialogue with our families in the interests of keeping everyone safe and ensuring our children get a great deal.

Any questions, please don't hesitate to get in contact via our enquiries@gilberdykeprimary.co.uk email account.

Take care

Melissa Shirley

Headteacher