

Federation of Grevelthorpe and Fountains
C of E Primary Schools



Believe Learn Flourish
With
Faith Hope Love

Headteacher: Pam Acheson



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year and have stayed well during this period.

School will be **open** as normal tomorrow. As I am sure you are aware, our area is now in Tier 3. There has been much media coverage about the new strain of the virus which we are being informed spreads more easily amongst children. Teaching Unions have strong opinions on the subject of schools re-opening during this next phase of the pandemic and Boris Johnson has not ruled out a National Lockdown in the coming days/weeks. As things currently stand, the Local Authority encourages school leaders to follow the official DfE guidance which is that primary-aged children should be returning to school this week. Teacher unions are advising their members of their individual right to invoke the protection of Section 44 of the Employment Relations Act. All our staff are happy to return to work but we have reviewed our risk assessments to ensure we are operating as safely as we can. As a result, staff will not be having any face-to-face meetings with parents at drop off and pick-up times. We would ask that you email staff using their class emails or contact admin who can arrange an appointment for the teacher to ring you or set up a TEAMS meeting online. In communal areas; when staff have to work in a different class bubble; or when working within close proximity to children, staff will be wearing a face covering which will either be a mask or a face shield. The children have seen staff in PPE last term and staff will talk to them about the reasons why masks are being worn at different time so that they are not anxious. We were very fortunate last term that we did not need to close any of our bubbles and keep everyone in our school community safe. I would be grateful if you could continue to adhere to the social distancing rules at drop off and pick-up times and ensure that you continue to wear a mask when you are on the school site.

Anyone who is unwell in school will be sent home so that they can be monitored. If children have any of the symptoms related to COVID then they will need to have a test and self-isolate. When informing school about a Covid-related absence you will be asked to provide details about who in the family has symptoms and when the symptoms started so that we can support the track and trace in school.

In the event of a National Lockdown or a bubble closure, all staff are prepared to deliver remote learning. Each day your child will have a Teams call scheduled with the class teacher. During this session the teacher may deliver input for the day or provide feedback on the

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activities which will be set up on the class pages of the website. The activities will be a combination of videos, slides and tasks to download. If you would prefer hard copies of the activities, then you will need to contact school to inform us so that provision can be prepared in advance. A pack will be sent home this week with an exercise book and all the log in details for the platforms the teachers will be using to deliver their lessons.

If your child is isolating, then there will be daily activities posted onto the website to keep you up to date with what the children in school will be doing.

We appreciate your continued support in these very difficult times. If you have any concerns or questions about returning to school, then please don't hesitate to contact me; headteacher@gfschools.co.uk I only find out about changes to Government guidance at the same time as you do but will keep you informed about how the schools are responding to the guidance as and when we get updates and want to make you aware that decisions may need to be made quickly and at short notice to ensure everyone's safety.

On behalf of everyone at Grewelthorpe and Fountains, we would like to thank you for your continued support in helping to keep everyone safe.

Kind regards,

Pam Acheson