

Harleston C.E. Primary Academy

School Lane, Harleston, Norfolk. IP20 9HG

Tel: (01379) 852302 / 853211

E-mail: office@harleston.stbenets.org

Website: www.harleston.stbenets.org



Interim Headteacher: Mrs M Foreman

27th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, I am sure you would like to join me in thanking all the staff at Harleston and Archbishop Sancroft who have offered up their time to be carers for the children of key workers on our school site. We in turn are very grateful that you in turn have heeded the government advice and only made use of us for childcare when absolutely necessary because there is no one available at home to care for your child. We have made sure (as much as you can with children!) that they stay a reasonable distance from other children and adults, but also tried to keep them occupied with quite a range of activities. Childcare arrangements for the next two weeks have been shared with the families currently using our provision. We always check the health of children arriving for childcare to make sure that no one showing any symptoms of illness is allowed on site so that we can maintain the health and wellbeing of all adults and children.

We will not be open for childcare on Good Friday or Easter Monday.

Use of Google Classroom - we have had a really good uptake of Google Classroom from many children but we still have some children who have not signed in at all and therefore have missed out on regular contact with their class teacher, as well as schoolwork being set for them. If your child is still having issues getting onto Google Classroom please email the office address who will pass on the details of your problem to a member of staff who will contact you and sort out the issue. Please make sure your child isn't using the system for social chat with their friends since each posting by your child is read and monitored by the class teacher which takes them away from setting work and communicating directly with children who want support from their teacher. A range of videos have now been posted on Google Classroom to help you and your children understand how to do certain things such as uploading work they have completed. Learning tasks and ideas will not be posted by teachers after next Wednesday and will resume on Monday 20th April - this is our usual Easter holiday. Google Classroom will remain available for pupils to use, but teachers will not respond to your child during that time - after all, it is their holiday too.

I have been able to see some great work being done by children at home when records of it have been sent in by them or their parents - it is incredible to see how well so many of you have embraced the difficult challenge of guiding your children in their learning at home. We do not underestimate how much hard work you are doing alongside your children - so thank you for being so great. Class teachers have chosen children from their classes to award 'virtual' certificates - just as they would have received one per class if we were in school. However, every single child who has joined in with home learning deserves a very big well done and thank you from all of us here at the academy. Please make sure you tell your child that Mrs Foreman is really proud of them and the learning they have done this week.

Look out for our Twitter feed on [@HarlestonCE](https://twitter.com/HarlestonCE) for regular postings about what children are doing for their home learning as well as for helpful tips of what your child can be doing at home.

To help us communicate with you effectively, please make sure that you make use of email to contact the school rather than telephoning in. All messages left with us via email will be

responded to by a member of staff as quickly as we can. Staff here are also trying to keep in touch with as many families as possible via a quick phone call.

Many of us joined in with clapping NHS workers last night - here at the Primary School we all want to join in with sharing our thanks to all NHS workers too - especially those members of our school community who have roles in our health service. Please accept our grateful thanks for everything you are doing too.

Yesterday, in schools across the country we received a letter from Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, thanking all school staff and saying he was deeply grateful for the vital service we were doing in providing for our children and our communities and were central to the country's efforts in battling the virus. It was nice to get such an acknowledgement after a difficult and challenging week, where staff quite rightly were concerned about their own vulnerability to getting the virus if they continued to come into school to work - giving them far more contact with people than everyone in the country is being advised to do. I have also received many compliments from our own school community with parents contacting the school, or saying at the gate as they drop off children for childcare, how much they appreciate what we are doing.

On a personal note, I want to publicly thank everyone at GM Autotech for sorting out my car for me so brilliantly when I was let down by my own local garage. They were fantastic over the course of two days and I cannot thank them enough for keeping me on the road. Keeping the cars of Key Workers running is yet another service that we cannot afford to have stop - so well done everyone at GM for keeping us safe and able to get to our places of work.

Finally, can I wish you all a happy weekend and hope that you do get out together as a family for your once a day walk, cycle or run.

With my best regards,



Mary Foreman
Interim Headteacher

STAY HOME STAY SAFE STAY WELL

