



Gatten and Lake Primary School
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Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after half term! I need to send another HUGE thank you for the positive re-engagement in remote learning this week. The vast majority of children across each class have settled really well to their learning to ensure a smooth transition back to school.

We appreciate that the transition back to school is going to have a varying impact on each and every family. I am working very closely with all staff, to ensure we are prepared for this transition time again and will of course, work with anyone who has any concerns or worries about this return.

If you feel your child is going to find transition back to school really challenging, please let us know so we can best prepare for a successful return for each and every pupil.

We can't wait to be all together again in school. Whilst all children will return, there will of course be measures in place to keep everyone as safe as possible. This will mean many of the organisational and safety procedures in place prior to the New Year will remain, with improvements, to ensure we follow the guidelines, and ensure the vigilance and safety for our school community as best we possibly can.

This week, I have spent time reading, analysing and preparing new risk assessments and plans for reopening on 8th March and will of course send these to you – once they are validated by the school's Health and Safety provider. As it stands, we are hoping to minimise changes so that the children and yourselves come back to school as similar as it was before we went into Lockdown 3. More information will follow next week.

Y6 transition to Secondary School

In the Autumn Term, children and families in Year Six discussed and made applications for secondary school places for Autumn 2021 based on their choices, with a completion deadline of 31st October 2020. On Monday 1st March, this coming Monday, the allocated school for your child will be shared with families. This will be sent via email to the person who made the application. If a paper copy was submitted or email addresses are not held, offers will be sent out in the post, 2nd class. School will also find out school places to aid transition arrangements on Monday too. If you have any concerns, please contact us.

World Book Day – next week

Next week, challenge week is all about reading and books, to coincide with National World Book Day. On Thursday 4th March, the children can either dress up as a book character (no need to buy expensive dressing up clothes) **OR** make a vegetable into a book character... this gives the flexibility at this time to express ourselves in different ways but still celebrate the love of reading and book characters. Each day I will be sending a reading related challenge to you all... I'm hoping for another fun week.



Railway Bridge Closure

I have posted a message on Class DoJo, about the railway bridge closure being extended by a week. If you need transport, due to the bridge closure, on the return to school from 8th March, please call the school office so we can keep in communication about transport and times. Thank you ☺

NHS – Return to school countdown

Attached to this newsletter, are a range of documents that might be very helpful in preparation for the return to school. They contain some brilliant ideas to do with the children, some of which we may look at as a whole school next week. If anyone would like a printed set, please give us a call or drop me a DoJo message and we'll happily prepare this for you to collect.



Remembrance Day

Do you remember back to Remembrance Day in November prior to Lockdown? Each child painted a pebble to reflect their thoughts about Remembrance Day. Each child placed their pebble at the front of the school.

The crocuses that the children planted there two years prior, have done as planned and 'sprung' up... perfectly to make the cross.

We are delighted with this end result, and the children have loved spotting it as they pass at the end of the day. We hope you do too?

We will have this here for many years to come, which we can add to over time.

I really hope you all have a lovely weekend. The forecast is currently for lots of sunshine... which is a welcome treat for us all. It helps lift us all from the dark, wet days of Winter. I really am hoping to get outside in the garden and enjoy as much of the weather as possible.

But, just a reminder please, please, please remember to stick to the Government rules...

- Remain in your household bubbles only
- Hands, Face, Space at all times
- Inform school of any illness / positive cases so we can inform trace and trace as soon as possible

Rebecca Day - Headteacher

