

GIG MILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Together we care, together we succeed



2nd February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will no doubt be aware from the National news, lockdown is continuing across the country, not just until February as first thought, but until March 2021.

There is lots of media speculation about how and when a possible return on 8th March will happen, but at the moment the truth is we just don't know. This is difficult for us all whether it's planning ahead without guidance, juggling working from home with children's remote learning, or being part of the National response to COVID and keeping others' safe and keeping key services open. We do not know when we may be able to safely re-open school to all pupils again; but as soon as we have any information, we will of course share it with you.

In the meantime, thank you for all of your efforts with home schooling. We do appreciate how difficult it is. The work that we are receiving in school is a pleasure to read and look at, and whilst we are encouraging all the children to do their best and to complete the work set; we do understand that sometimes this can be difficult. I know many of you have found the conversations with class teachers really helpful. The 'Evidence me' and 'Purple Mash' platforms are also working successfully for most of our families at home. Remember, we are at the end of the phone if you need our support with remote learning, or have any other concerns.

This week, you may have seen how we have adapted the remote learning planning to incorporate activities for Mental Health week, which we promoted today with a special 'Inside out day', and we have been encouraging families at home to join in. We have been trying out a few different ideas in different year groups which we will launch next week across school – one thing to look out for is a new Purple Mash parent-guide for Y1-6 which will be added to the website before the end of this week. Wherever possible (staffing and technology permitting) we will also aim to upload all the remote learning planning a little earlier, in readiness for the following week.

We have had a request for a 'timetable' for children learning at home with a structure for the day, so we will be adding this to the website as well - it is just there if you would like to use it. We know many families have made great use of the BBC resources as well as many other websites, and other family favourites whether it's a game, jigsaw, a book, or Joe Wickes!

Some families have let us know that children have developed a new interest or are spending time doing something they love doing together. So please share these with teachers too, or add to the new display boards.

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Please do keep an eye on the website for any other useful information.

Some useful dates:

1st-7th February 2021 - Children's Mental Health Week

8th -12th February 2021 – Internet Safety Week - look out for special activities in the remote learning planning.

15th – 19th February: School closed to children for half term – please see our Family half term ideas sheet on the website.

Please note families accessing critical worker places, that school may continue to contact you up until Tuesday 16th in case of positive case reporting to DFE and Public Health.

We hope that you are all keeping well. Wherever we are, these are such difficult times with many challenges. Please do let your children know that we are missing them very much and look forward to when we can welcome them back to school.

Thank you again for your continuing support, we can't wait for our Gig Mill family to be back together soon.

Kind regards,

Mrs Hannaway and the Gig Mill team