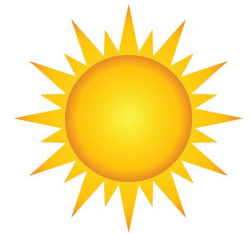




GUSTON

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER 24th April 2020 (Lockdown 1)



Dear Parents and Carers.

In an attempt to keep some things as normal as possible, I will be continuing with our weekly newsletters this term.

Firstly, I'd like to thank you all for acting upon the guidance from the Government and keeping your children at home unless it is impossible to do so. We remain open to the children of those key workers that need us.

The down side of actioning this advice is that we miss you! We hope that you're continuing to manage ok in such challenging times. As a school, we are trying to balance the learning needs of pupils with the pressures this whole situation places on families. Teachers are now setting the week's work on a Monday to give you the flexibility to plan your week in a way that best suits you as a family. If you are having difficulty accessing this, please email your child's teacher on their class email account (classname@guston.kent.sch.uk). For Y5 you can also email Mrs Tee on turtles@guston.kent.sch.uk.

Teachers have very much enjoyed catching up with you when they have phoned, although there are still a few parents we've not been able to contact. Please pick up if you get a "No caller ID" call, it's likely to be them just checking in.

Thanks

Website

Thank you for your patience in terms of accessing the website! It was not the best start to the week but School Spider have worked tirelessly to ensure we have a secure space to set and share work.

The website has lots of functions, only some of which we're exploring due to the situation we find ourselves in. Some are obviously more appropriate the older the pupils are. We will be writing to you in more detail about how these functions can be used but from our initial monitoring, we'd like to flag up a few things with you.

If children upload their work through the **Homework** function, only the teacher can see it. This allows children to get feedback from them, on specific areas of learning. If they post on a **Message Board** and share work there, then others in the class can see it and can comment on it. This can be really helpful to generate discussions amongst children. **Scrapbooks** are a great way for children to share with the teacher what they've been up to too. They can't be seen by other children.

If children begin a **blog**, then this is public to all other School Spider Schools, which means any other child in the 400+ schools, School Spider manage, can see and comment on it. Therefore, children need to be reminded of the safe online behaviour they will have been taught about in school. Not sharing personal information, using appropriate language and choosing appropriate topics to discuss.

Just to reassure you, all messages and blogs have to be authorised by a member of staff before being published on the website.



Headteacher Emails

A number of teachers have shared with me some fantastic activities children have been doing at home, not always related to the work set but still valuable in their own right.

I will be emailing those children (via their parents email) to congratulate them on their great efforts.

Keep up the good work everybody!
Mrs Day x



The Power of Kindness

At this time of uncertainty it is important not to lose sight of the important things in life; things that bring others comfort, support and happiness.

We must try, as best we can, to help our children to see the importance of these things too. With this in mind, we have signed up to The British Red Cross' 'The Power of Kindness' project. This is an opportunity to demonstrate your kindness towards others and send a positive message out to others. We have chosen this project because it links beautifully with our Christian Value of Compassion, which the children regularly demonstrate at school.

It would be great to share pictures of what children have been up to, so please email your child's class teacher with pictures of them demonstrating kindness and then they can be shared on the website.

Thank you.