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Headteacher Mrs Julia Humphrey

9th October 2020

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy two weeks since I last wrote to you all. In this time, the School Council have been appointed and their first meeting conducted. Mrs Nightingale asked the children to think about the ways in which our school keep everyone safe as we would like them to create their own (child friendly) version of the school safeguarding policy. Mrs Nightingale was really impressed with their thoughts and ideas, some of which have been captured below.

What is safeguarding?

It is about protecting children and keeping us safe. We have rights to be safe. We want to be the best learner and be happy as we learn better when we are.

Who do you talk to when you are worried?

*Our Headteacher.
Our Teachers.
Our Teaching Assistants.
Trusted adults.
NSPCC
Police*

How will the school protect you?

By giving us the safest place to learn. By always listening to us and giving us a voice, especially when we are worried. To make sure we are safe at school and at home.

What makes us feel safe at school?

We have adults we can trust. We have high fences around the field – people can't get in and we can't get out onto the road. Gates are locked with padlocks. The front door has a code pad. The pond is fenced off. We are taught how to ride a bike safely. We are taught how to cross a road safely.

The children also talked about when they should share information with a trusted adult, the types of situations they might find themselves in such as friendship problems or if someone tries to take something from you.

They have requested that a safeguarding worry box is placed near the School Council notice board so that children can post any thought, concerns or questions for Mrs Nightingale to look at. This is a great idea which we shall action.

I would like to thank the School Council for their mature understanding of this aspect of our school provision and I look forward to hearing how else they can support our school over the coming year.

EYFS settling in survey

To all of our wonderful EYFS parents - Mrs Leport will share, via Class Dojo, a link to a survey monkey questionnaire which has 8 questions about how your child has settled into our school. We would really appreciate it if you took the time to complete this for us. The anonymous information you provide will be used for us to shape the way we arrange transition and the first few weeks in school for the intake in September 2021. Thank you in advance of your support with this.

Harvest collection

Sadly we shall be unable to hold a Harvest Festival in church or in school altogether this year as we need to remain working in Key Stage bubbles. However, we are very keen to demonstrate our thankfulness for all we have by making donations for those who are in need. Many families locally have found themselves without work because of the continuing pressures on businesses since Coronavirus began in March 2020. We are aware that the Thetford Foodbank needs unwanted clothing items – especially for children, including outer layers such as coats and waterproofs. We wondered whether, as you begin to change over from the lighter summer layers to winter, you may find your child has outgrown some things which ordinarily you would take to the charity shop. Mrs Raven has agreed to co-ordinate a delivery of any items you are willing to contribute before half term and possibly again after. She will leave a clean box/tub inside one of the bus shelters on the playground for any clean and in reasonable condition items to be placed. Thank you in advance of your support with this.



Maths Café via zoom

Following a successful zoom phonics session for EYFS and KS1 families last week (if you missed it, please check the school website where the powerpoint slides have been added) we have planned a maths café session next week with Mr Dekker. As this will be a new venture, we have decided to run this session for KS2 children only with the intention (if this one is successful) of running a KS1 session next half term. Please join Mr Dekker on Tuesday afternoon at 3.30pm from the comfort of your own home, via the zoom link below for a 30 minute maths activity. Mr Dekker will send home with every child, some resources they will need.

Garboldisham Church Primary School is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Maths Cafe for KS2

Time: Oct 13, 2020 3:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79413772089?pwd=WG9jOHdJelZTbzJiVmE4MzE3R0VjZz09>

Meeting ID: 794 1377 2089

Passcode: 9WgL38

Government's Daily School Coronavirus update

I wished to make you aware that from Monday 12th, the daily DfE attendance return form we complete will be asking for specific information about all absences. For example, they will ask about the number of suspected or confirmed cases linked to our school and also contact concerns with someone outside of the home. If you speak to or email Mrs Green about an absence, please can you assist us by being as clear as possible about the reason. Thank you.

Update over the COVID-19 Risk Assessment – following our weekly review

This is to remind you that we have written our contingency remote learning plans. These can be found on the website under home learning. We strongly encourage you to keep checking Class Dojo for updates from the teachers about learning opportunities in school and at home and also check that for any sites they signpost you to, you have access / can remember the password. Please be aware too that the government expect any child who is absent from school because there are concerns around COVID-19 i.e. they are symptomatic or a member of the household is, that the child engages in the home learning tasks provided by the school.

People involved in the life of our school this week

This week we have had -

Rob Brewster from the Teaching School – he and Mr Dekker reviewed maths lessons together.

Nadine Avenal our SENCo – trained staff after school on Working Memory and strategies to use in class.

Wishing you a restful weekend.

Mrs Humphrey
Headteacher