



Church Road Garboldisham DISS Norfolk IP22 2SE tel 01953 681327 fax 01953 681327
Email office@garboldisham.norfolk.sch.uk

Headteacher Mrs Julia Humphrey

13th November 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to come back after half term to some drier days and occasional sunshine. Being outside in the fresh air at break, lunchtime and for PE, alongside the chance to keep windows open, is certainly helping us all feel healthier.

Some things to celebrate

Ofsted visit

Last Thursday (5th November) our school received an Ofsted visit in line with the DfE plans to sample around 1200 schools during the Autumn term. The main focus for the visit was to research how the school has been impacted by Covid-19 and to understand the priorities and plans for recovery. All schools visited, will have the detail of the conversation shared with the DfE and Government. The HMI Inspectors will produce a brief letter for the school community. This should be published on the Ofsted website within the next few weeks so I shall let you know when it appears. It was a good visit and the team thanked us (as they are all schools) for the incredible work we are doing.

School Improvement and Development Plans

This week Mrs Howard and I have been able to visit each class to see how the teachers are using the recent Talk for Writing training (our training day before half term) in the teaching of writing. We had a wonderful time looking at books, speaking with children and watching as they told their problem, resolution story. If you haven't already, please ask your child to retell the story of Peace at Last or The Magician's Elephant. We hope to bring you a zoom parent session in the next few weeks (details to follow) during which Mrs Howard will explain the principles behind and features of Talk for Writing.

Shoebox Appeal

Mrs McGahan sent this message to us -

Just a quick thank you for enabling the shoebox collection to happen. They have now been delivered and will soon hopefully be on their journey to make Christmas a little brighter for some needy children. Please pass on my thanks to those who kindly contributed at what is a very difficult time for lots of people.

Collective Worship

This half term the value we shall explore through Collective Worship is TRUST.

Being brave, we have arranged for the school to get together three times a week this half term, twice for Collective Worship and each Friday for a Celebration of Learning. To reflect our values and to demonstrate how these are being 'lived out' through the daily life of the school, we have adopted a new Star of the Week certificate on which we shall highlight where each star has modelled one of the values.

People involved in the life of our school this week

With the more recent governmental guidance and lockdown until early December, we have reverted to holding almost all meetings with people outside the organisation as remote sessions. Over the last few weeks, Ms Avenal our SENCo has been making contact with parents via telephone and completing tasks via Teams and Zoom. Mr Brewster from the Teaching School has spent time with me, in Mr Dekker's absence, looking at the maths planning for the remainder of this term.

A few reminders

- Please can we remind you that because of children in school who have nut allergies, we ask that snacks and lunches do not contain nuts or products with nuts in.
- May we also ask that parents don't try to enter the school building at the start or end of the day. If you need to relay a message to a member of staff, those on the gate would happily locate the person you wish to speak with or take a message to them. Anything you need to speak with Mrs Green about, we still ask that you call or email her. Our Covid-19 Risk Assessment continues to recommend that we minimise those on site each day.
- Parent consultations - Please be reminded that we have arranged for parent consultations (via Zoom) to take place on Monday 16th or Tuesday 17th – if you have yet to contact Mrs Green for a time slot, please do.
- Flu jab – Friday 27th November - We shall keep you updated if this date changes.

Christmas

In the next newsletter which will be published on Friday 27th November, we shall provide full details about the events and activities we shall hold in school for the last week of this term. Please look out also for the FROGS letters. Suffice to say that, while we have every intention of celebrating this special time, we shall need to adhere to the school risk assessment and other guidance for schools.

At this stage, we are planning for the EYFS children to share the nativity - though this is likely to be filmed, we are planning to hold a Christingle in the two bubbles, shall enjoy Christmas party food, games and activities.

We shall have two Christmas post boxes - one in each of the two bubbles (EYFS and KS1, and KS2) and we shall ask that cards are posted with enough time for them to be quarantined ahead of distribution on the final day of term. We shall also be asking (if you are willing) for the front covers of your cards, to be brought into school for us to use next year in the creation of cards and decorations.

Wishing you a restful weekend.

Kind regards,

Mrs J. Humphrey
Headteacher