

Great Sankey Primary School

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Wednesday 10th June 2020

Dear parents and carers

Children in year two, year three, year four and year five

I am sure you are feeling disappointed with yesterday's news about us no longer trying to fully reopen primary schools before the end of term. This was officially confirmed via the education secretary in his speech to parliament.

Whilst social distancing guidance limiting class sizes to 15 pupils remains, it would have sadly been inevitable that we would not have been able to accommodate all children back before the close of the term, whilst maintaining the safety measures that we have implemented.

I know that both you and your children are missing school, we feel exactly the same but it is important that we continue to follow the government guidance. I wanted to take the time to write to you today to remind you that you have all been doing an excellent job in supporting your child's learning at home and that I recognise that as time goes on, this becomes more challenging and tiring in maintaining the enthusiasm you may have all felt in the earlier weeks of lockdown.

Since our 'return' after the half term break we have now began to upload your child's learning for the whole week. This will give you the opportunity to pick out their learning and hopefully will help to fit in with increasing demands you will have in the family home and wider work commitments. Staff will continue to check in with you and your child through Google Classroom as well as make fortnightly welfare calls. We are also maintaining our wonderful theme weeks to support in keeping the children's interest and variety of learning. Our Healthy Body Healthy Mind will support in promoting good mental and physical health and there will be lots of fun activities and advice to support your child at home.

The message has always been clear; do not put additional pressure on yourselves or your children. Some days are more positive than others and we must take each day as it comes. We enjoy seeing and hearing the children's work but there is no expectation to share or 'turn-in' every piece.

Please do not worry about September and new classes. Whilst we are carefully planning for your child moving into a new year, we are also very aware that they will have missed a lot of time in school and are building this into our curriculum and transition planning. Transition will be planned so that when we do get to come together, children will have the opportunity to spend some time with their current teacher and class as well as their new classes. This will of course be dependent on many things but there is a plan a, b and c!



In the meantime, we hope that you enjoy the Healthy Body Healthy Mind theme week and take part in our 'virtual sports day' so we can put together a video as if we were together.

Finally, you may have seen the wonderful collection of pebbles on The Woodlands pub's wall, indeed I am sure many of you have contributed to it. I am keen for us to produce a lasting commemoration to this time and am asking that all children paint a pebble and pop it into school, when it is safe to do so or during your daily exercise. You can decorate it however you want but try to link it to something that represents a lockdown memory. We then plan to create a rainbow or pattern of all these memories, similar to the wonderful WW1 tribute we have on the walk into school. We hope that you all get involved so we can include all our families and this will be something we can share with other generations when we talk about this historic time.

Please do not forget that we are at the end of the phone if you need us and we are always happy to help.

Take care and stay safe

U.J.Briggp

V.J. Briggs Headteacher

