



THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST

Great Sankey Primary School

'Together We Learn and Grow'



Newsletter Summer Term: Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you are all well and are continuing to keep safe and healthy. This has been another week of guidance documents and planning the potential return of some of our children. I have written to parents of nursery, reception, year one and year six to gauge potential numbers to support with our planning for wider opening. Throughout this time, we have been working very closely with the Local Authority to ensure our proposals are in line with other schools.

The government have made it clear that the gradual reopening of schools will only take place providing that their 5 key tests justify the changes at the time. Please be advised that our proposals are subject to change based on the latest government guidance and parents and carers will be updated prior to any changes being made. **I therefore will not be sharing the finer details of our arrangements until after the date of 28th May.** This is deliberate to avoid any confusion or mixed messages for parents. Rest assured there is much work and planning taking place to ensure careful preparations are in place for any return.

The earliest date in Warrington that some groups of children can attend school will be from 8th June. If this goes ahead pupils from all of the identified year groups will return gradually over a period of weeks.

Don't forget to visit our website and the COVID-19 section as there are lots of resources to support learning and well-being for children and adults. These are constantly being updated and more resources added. The link can be found here: <https://greatsankey-warrington.secure-dbprimary.com/warrington/primary/greatsankey/site/pages/homelearning>

Google classrooms will close for half term today but staff have all uploaded lots of craft ideas should your child wish to keep busy over the break. These activities can also be found under the 'craft activities' section within the COVID-19 tab on the website.

Please continue to stay safe, take care and we will be together again soon.

Mrs Briggs

Thank a Teacher Day

This week was national 'thank a teacher day' and we were very grateful for all the lovely messages and emails we received. Thank you also for the biscuits, cakes, sweets and cards that keep getting dropped off at the school office – there really all help to keep our spirits up! Thank you.

I would like to publicly thank all the staff at Great Sankey Primary for their hard work and commitment at this time. We have remained open throughout the pandemic for a small number of critical worker and vulnerable children. Staff have continued to come in, lead out on their online learning as well as ensuring the continued running of the school – there really a great team
#TeamGSP



Free School Meals

School vouchers will cease over the half term. Please be aware that there are many supportive charities and groups that may be able to help, should you be experiencing difficulty.

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/warrington/>

The link above gives further information for support, including your nearest foodbanks.

Transition

I understand through welfare calls that some parents are becoming anxious with regards to class arrangements and transition for next year. As I know you understand, it is difficult to plan in full detail for longer term events under the current circumstances. However, please be assured that as part of any plans, we are giving careful consideration to both staff and class arrangements and much of this will be dependent on when or how we return fully. Regardless of this, transition will be carried out in some form to support all our children and enable them closure with their current teacher and class and to support them in their next journey within school and beyond.

Mental Health Awareness Week

Hosted by the **Mental Health Foundation**, Mental Health Awareness Week will take place from 18-24th May 2020. The theme is kindness.

Why kindness? Kindness has been chosen because of its singular ability to unlock our shared humanity. Kindness strengthens relationships develops community and deepens solidarity. It is a cornerstone of our individual and collective mental health. Wisdom from every culture across history recognises that kindness is something that all human beings need to experience and practise.

Celebrate Kindness Shine a light on the way that kindness is already growing at this time across TCAT schools. We have seen it in our pupils and staff. We have seen in the stoic walk of 100-year-old Captain Tom Moore as well as lots of other individuals and groups responding to local needs. **Spread kindness!**

Mental Wealth

Your mental WEALTH is our priority. We want it to be your priority too. Please please please look after yourself. We want you firing on all cylinders. Your family and friends do too! Here are 10 tips on how to **SHINE** at work and home...

1. Eat, Move & Sleep.



The first base of mental health is to look after your physical wellbeing. Treat yourself to a healthy breakfast and don't forget your 5-a-day. Take regular exercise. Join a gym, cycle, jog, stretch, do yoga, take the stairs, go for a walk at lunchtime... do whatever it takes to keep your body moving. Ban all laptops, phones and TVs from your bedroom and get your full 8 hours.

2. Socialise.



With actual real people. Human beings are social creatures. Your happiness is strongly linked with friendship and family so spend more time with real people and less time with social media ones.

3. Choose to be Positive.

Your attitude travels with you so upgrade to enthusiasm and can-do. Not unhelpful "Woodhoos, don't you just LOVE Mondays" (that might be a step too far!) but tackle each day with an air of optimism and enthusiasm. Positivity doesn't mean problems disappear but it does make them a whole lot easier to deal with.

4. Be Grateful.



Gratitude is like fertilizer for happiness. Marvel at what you have got rather than grumbling about what you haven't. If in doubt, write a list of 10 things you really appreciate but take for granted.



5. Play to Your Strengths.

Work out what your strengths are and find opportunities to bring them to the fore.

6. Be Kind.



Kindness is a super-power. Catch people doing things well and tell them. Do random acts of kindness. Doing a good deed for someone else is a sure fire way to make them, and YOU, feel amazing.

7. Get Organised.



Modern life is fast and hectic. Cut your multi-tasking. Get focused by prioritising what needs doing, then single task through your list.

8. Work Sensible Hours.

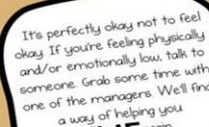


Forget work/life balance and install a life/work balance instead. We want you to be happy. We want you to have a brilliant life. Work productively. Give your all. Then go home and **rest**.

9. Be Your Own Bestie.



You know that shrill voice in your head - the shouty one that tells you what an idiot you are - everyone has it! Human thinking is biased towards negativity so learn to dispute your thinking. Catch yourself doing things well. Change the narrative. You are amazing. Tell yourself that, because you are.



10. ASK for Help.

#Fact:



The average lifespan is 9000 weeks. We want you to live it fully. Life is a short and precious gift, don't send it back unwrapped.

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Nursery and Reception (EYFS)

Our nursery children have been impressing us with their wonderful reading and are fast becoming little book worms! They have been reading some of our favourite books and we were delighted to be treated by Molly reading a bedtime story to us all.

Our Reception children have enjoyed learning all about The Very Hungry Caterpillar this week. We have had lots of brilliant mini-beast activities being shared with us on Google classroom and you have all produced some impressive work on healthy eating. Some of your fruit kebabs look delicious and have inspired us to make our own!

A highlight of the week has to be watching our fabulous teaching assistants leading out on their phonic sessions. We have received lots of excellent feedback about how children have been engaging and wanting to learn their letters and sounds each day.

Thank you for sharing all your learning with us, it has been lovely once again to see the children's hard work and enthusiasm. We hope that you enjoy the half term and have lots of fun in the sun!



Years One and Two (KS1)

There has been some very strange goings on in KS1 this week with the children bending themselves into all sorts of weird and wonderful shapes and balancing toilet rolls all over the place. It can only be a Mrs Franklin wacky morning challenges! Even Mrs Pearson and her dog joined in!

The teachers have been very impressed with all the fantastic home learning that has been taking place and want to say a big thank you to the children and especially the parents who have been accommodating and imaginative in providing as many practical 'hands-on' learning experiences as possible.

From having all their change confiscated to make shops when we've set money tasks, a variety of household objects rearranged to show examples of 3D shapes, cupboards raided of tins and bags of sugar for weighing as well as baking to demonstrate using scales you have been brilliant and inventive

in the ways you have found to enhance your children's learning and we are very appreciative.

We have also really enjoyed two wonderful books over the last couple of weeks. Possum magic saw us making fantastic missing posters that really helped Grandma Poss to find Hush (after he had paid a cheeky visit to school and played on the trim trail!). This week our English work has been based on the story

The Ugly Sharkling about Norman the poor shark who had no teeth. Fantastic character descriptions and postcards have been written using brilliant sentences and impressive adjectives, you should be very proud of yourselves KS1!

Finally as part of our animals topic, we have looked at the work of the World Wildlife Fund and the animals they work to protect. All the teachers were impressed by the caring and mature comments made by the children in researching and voting for the animal they would like the school to sponsor.

After all the votes were counted the animal chosen was the tiger! Well done everyone and have a well-earned break!



Years Three and Four (LKS2)

We can't believe we are already at the end of summer term 1, where has the time gone? We have loved looking at all the photographs and work you have been sending us on Google classroom and Twitter. Many of you are also now turning your work in which is a great way for us to see the engagement of each activity. It has been lovely to speak to our families over the last few weeks and find out how you have been getting on.

In our google classrooms, the children have been really engaged with their work - especially our curriculum and science projects. We have had some excellent Ancient Egyptian project work from death masks to mummies and detailed science work linked to animals and humans. We've also had some robins and tadpole visitors to help us learn about food chains.

We have been amazed by the English and Maths work that we have been receiving and how many house points we have had to award over the last 2 weeks. A huge well done to all of you for all your hard work. And to your parents too - they really are super stars. We have loved putting the little videos on Google Classroom as it's our way of saying hello as we are missing you all so much! We hope you are enjoying our Roald Dahl story on GSP TV and thank you for all the children who have voted for their favourite story. The results will be announced after the half term.

We are all so, so proud of you LKS2. Have a wonderful half term and we will speak to you very soon.



Years Five and Six (UKS2)

It's been a busy couple of weeks in UKS2 with lots of events going on both through school and at home. It was fantastic to see all of the home learning based around the 75 Year VE Day Celebrations and writing projects that children have been completing. Take a look at the VE day video on our school website underneath the 'History' section. Children across Years 5 and 6 recently completed an 'All About Me' project and wrote short autobiographies to go alongside them. We have been absolutely amazed with the quality and standard of work. Some children have produced PowerPoints, videos and posters – including with music and photographs. Take a look at some of the fantastic work below.

This week was also due to be the week that our Y6 children went on their residential to London so they have been busy researching and writing up projects on our capital city, its history and famous landmarks. Also this week, some of our Y6 children have had a live tour of Penketh High School and had opportunity to meet some of the form tutors. I'm sure our other children are also looking forward to hearing of transition events with their new High Schools too. In Oak Tree Class, one of the children has put himself forward to raise money for a mental health charity through physical exercise – he has already raised £90 and we are very proud of him. #GSPBeKind. We hope you're all keeping safe, keep sharing your photographs with us and we look forward to hopefully being able to see you soon!



Pictures



Facts about the Tower of London

- It was built as a royal palace and a defence system.
- Legends say If the ravens leave the Tower the Kingdom will fall.
- There are over 23,500 jewels there today.



Isabelle Geraghty

My name is Isabelle Amy Lily Geraghty and I am from Warrington, England. I am 10 years old and attend Great Salkley Primary School. In September I will be going to Penketh High School.

My Household

I live with my Mum, my Dad, my three sisters (Jess, Matilda and Tabitha) and my two dogs Honey and Teddy (Honey Left, Teddy Right).

