



THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST

Great Sankey Primary School

'Together We Learn and Grow'



Newsletter Spring Term: **Monday 6th April 2020**

Dear parents and carers

I am so pleased with how hard the children have been working on their learning packs and Google Classroom over the past two weeks. It has been great to see all your pictures, messages and tweets and I know the staff have been spurred on also when they have seen all their wonderful efforts. We really do miss you all!

To all the parents, you are doing a fantastic job in supporting their learning but most importantly, in keeping them safe and happy in these unprecedented times. Please know that we are around should you require any support and be kind to yourselves. I know many of you are working from home and trying to balance your own work commitments and this can be a challenge. As a parent myself I understand these challenges and it is important that you try to keep routines however, your child will have heard the news, picked up our own adult anxieties and the idea of being off school may now not seem as fun. Please try to strike the balance between work, schooling and family time. This is a rare opportunity for us all to come together in a way never seen before.

We have developed a whole new section on our website linked to #covid-19 information and home learning. There are a number of sections within this containing a raft of resources to support both children and adults. Information on here will be updated regularly so please visit this as an offer of further support. The link can be found here: <https://greatsankey-warrington.secure-dbprimary.com/warrington/primary/greatsankey/site/pages/homelearning>

During Easter, we will not be setting work as intensely as previously, instead, we recognise that the children (and you) might want a little break. However, we have planned a number of activities and projects that your child may wish to have fun and participate with. Details of these can also be found in the link above from the website.

Post Easter, we will be continuing to set work on Google Classroom and will also be distributing paper-based workbooks to ensure a balance between online and traditional paper-based tasks. This balance may also support those families struggling for online access.

The staff have been working hard to develop their own knowledge and skills with regards to online learning and we are also investigating the use of 'live' lessons. I am very proud of their determined approach in trying to ensure that the children are receiving a good diet of tasks and also in the work they set prior to us closing. They will continue to tweet daily and 'talk' to you through Google Classroom and are balancing this with their rotas of time in school against planning, creating videos and other activities.

Teachers will also be making regular welfare calls when they are in school. This is a friendly call to say 'hello' and check in if all is well and if there is anything they can help with.

We would normally be closing on Wednesday and although we will continue to be open over the Easter holidays for those children of key workers and to provide support for our most vulnerable, it is an important time for children, staff and families to find some time to rest after a very busy term and a particularly challenging time.

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

Mrs Briggs

Free School Meals

Since closing our doors, we have continued to ensure that those children who normally receive benefit-related Free School Meals have been sent vouchers. I am pleased to tell you that this will also continue over the Easter period. Post Easter there will be a national voucher scheme so this should make the distribution easier. You will receive further details around this once we know more.

Stay Safe Online

Children (and adults!) are currently using a range of new apps to communicate with one another. Whilst these are a great way to stay in touch, they also come with their own risks. Please continue to monitor your child closely whilst online. Our website has a dedicated section to keeping safe online and what to do if you need to report a problem. Please talk to your children regularly about this and any concerns can be directly reported to www.ceop.police.uk The NSPCC website also has some excellent resources and support materials for families on www.nspcc.org.uk

BE SMART ONLINE

SAFE Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.

MEET Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thinkuknow.co.uk

ACCEPTING Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.

RELIABLE You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.

TELL Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline – 0800 11 11 or www.childline.org.uk

BE SMART WITH A HEART Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

WWW.CHILDNET.COM

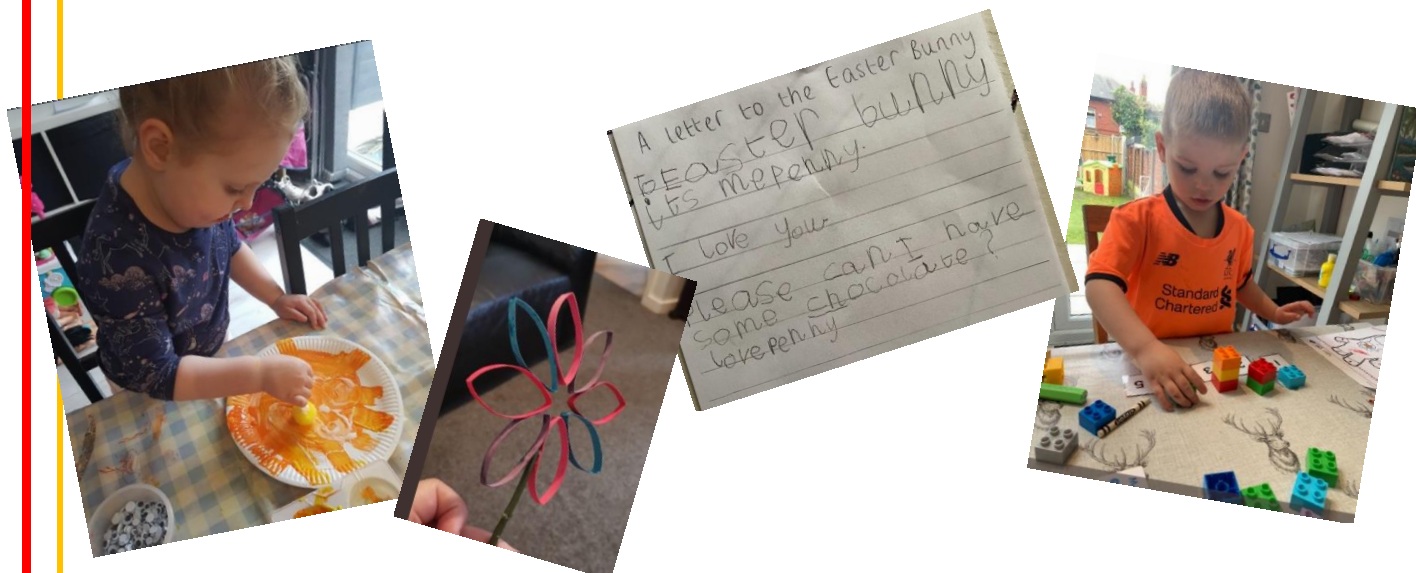
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Good news striws have been a little rare over the past couple of weeks so we wanted to share some magic from across the school to celebrate the wonderful work, kindness and news you have all been sharing.

Nursery and Reception (EYFS)

In Nursery and EYFS over the last 2 weeks of being at home and home-learning, it looks like everyone has been very, very busy! It looks like lots of children have been loving the ideas suggested by all the teachers and being very creative whilst learning and developing lots of different skills. Keep it up everyone! And keep tweeting so we can see what you are doing - we love to keep in touch.



Years One and Two (KS1)

We have all been amazed at the imagination and ingenuity shown by children in KS1. They have very busy planting seeds, growing plants and doing other science experiments such as how to make a rainbow. Space has been a popular theme and children have been designing their own planets, making their own rockets and researching and making brilliant fact files and posters about Neil Armstrong. Reading fun books such as 'The Disgusting Sandwich' led to real life versions and instructions! A fun way to practise money saw a shop being made in the kitchen, a lovely video showed spring flowers and encouraging messages to cheer everyone up and even having no good news assembly is no problem when you're always the star of your week! These are just a few of the brilliant things that have been going on. Well done everyone (including parents!) You should be very proud - your teachers are certainly very proud of you! We miss you lots so make sure you keep in touch.



Years Three and Four (LK\$2)

LKS2 have been working really hard at home to complete all their home learning tasks. They have been using Venn diagrams and classification trees to sort animals linked to our science topic; they have researched tsunamis and tornadoes linked to our geography; have designed front covers for their favourite reading book and have created artwork in the style of Andy Warhol. They have also been singing songs, joining in with Joe Wicks, learning times tables, painting sunshine's and completing their weekly spelling tests! We are so proud of how hard you have worked and adapted to your new 'schools'. We miss you lots and can't wait to see you all soon.



GSP TV

Don't forget to tune into GSP TV on You Tube. Story time is at 3pm every Tuesday and Thursday and more channels may soon be under produced so watch this space...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2rfluTf6Tk>



Years Five and Six (UKS2)

It's been a strange couple of weeks without us all being in school together, but we are very impressed with how well you are all coping with your learning at home and the adjustments that you are all making. Last week, your teachers made phone calls to you and your families at home and it was lovely to hear the things you have been getting on with, the work you have been doing and the new things you have been learning about with your families! Each day, your teachers communicate with you over our class pages / the class twitter page and over your Google classrooms. Thank you for all the wonderful things you have been sharing and a special Happy Birthday to those that have celebrated their birthdays while we have been off, including Ruby from Pine Tree and Dylan from Oak tree class! In these strange times it is important we all look out for one another, stay safe and always remember to #GSPBeKind.

Mrs Williams has loved seeing all of your posts on the Google Classroom and has been particularly impressed with Angus and Niamh rising to the musical instrument challenge where they performed a drumming piece for everyone. It was great to see Kadison too doing a fitness routine of his own with his Dad. Keep up the good work everyone -well done!

Mr Gawne has been especially impressed with how everyone is responding to the morning challenges posted and loves receiving your answers on the Google classroom. It has been great to see Joe working so well at home with inventive ways of practising his arithmetic skills and supporting his younger sister with her learning and Abi is even keeping up with the Daily Mile! Keep the posts coming and remember you can take photos of the work you do and share them on the google classroom!

Mr Ellis has loved receiving all your posts on Google Classroom and receiving your responses to his challenges. It's been great to see you posting your photos on the class twitter page and seeing you complete the Joe Wicks morning PE lessons! Well done to Ruby for sharing lots of her photos – it's been great to see them!

Remember, you can also log on to GSP TV to hear some stories from staff shared with you and, every Tuesday and Thursday, there will also be a new chapter of Street Child read to you from your teachers as we know how much you were enjoying it!

Stay Safe,

Team UKS2

