



THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST

Great Sankey Primary School

'Together We Learn and Grow'



Newsletter Summer Term: Friday 26th June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you and your families are healthy and safe as we all continue to deal with the pandemic in our different ways. We are living through a time that future generations will study, probably in disbelief when they hear how we lived through a lockdown, queued for toilet rolls and sanitiser, Zoomed until we could Zoom no more, clapped for our NHS, carers and keyworkers on our doorsteps and tried to find some of that British humour through a time of great uncertainty, fear and sadness for many.

One thing I have truly valued, professionally, has been the unwavering support, collaboration and resilience amongst colleagues across GSP and the wider trust. I have seen staff step up to the challenges we have faced, showing great creativity, endurance but most of all kindness to one another, our pupils and school communities. I have also been heartened by the excellent support we have received from our GSP families. This has demonstrated what a great GSP school community we have and I thank you all.

We have been delighted to welcome back our nursery, reception, year one and year six children, in addition to those children of key workers. The sound of more children in the building has lifted us all and it has been a seamless transition having them back in. The new procedures have worked extremely well and we have seen happy children back in school learning and mixing confidently with children within their bubble.

I am very conscious, whilst delighted to share all the wonderful pictures on Twitter of those children in school, that there are those that have not had the same opportunity to return to school in years two, three, four and five. We would love nothing more to have every child in every day with us from now until September. The government have now announced that we can invite more children in before the summer, where we have the capacity to do so and ensuring we follow the guidelines and protective measures in place. The greatest challenge we face is space and staff. All our teachers and teaching assistants are either teaching a bubble or maintaining the key worker groups. On the day they do not have their bubble they are planning for other children at home, ensuring our online offer is maintained and making important welfare calls. It is vital that this continues. We are therefore facing the challenge of staff capacity to create more groups and limited available spaces left. However, we like a challenge at GSP – we are looking at ways in which we can see you all in some way or another before the end of the summer and will be in touch about this soon.

Whilst we may not all be together, we are still trying to maintain the school events calendar. We have enjoyed seeing all your wonderful efforts during our Health Body Healthy Mind themes, the TCAT Sports challenges and our very own Sports Day. Well done everyone.

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

Mrs Briggs

WE are A
COMMUNITY

Transition

We are all very hopeful and positive with regards to the announcement of all schools returning fully in September. Over the past few weeks, we have been giving careful consideration to both staff and class arrangements. Much of this will still be dependent on how we return fully when the government releases the latest guidance, expected imminently. However, regardless of this, transition will be carefully planned for and carried out to support all our children to enable them some form of closure with their current teacher and class and to support them in their next journey within school and beyond. We will share your child's class arrangements for next year in due course, along with their annual reports.

Part of our planning for September has been ensuring the curriculum has been adapted to support with the time away from school. Our focus will be on securing relationships, building confidence and community back in our classrooms as well as rebuilding self-belief as learners in a school environment.

Healthy body, Healthy Mind

Despite most of us still being at home, we have still managed to all come together during our annual Healthy body, Healthy Mind fortnight and have a great time getting fit and healthy. It has been so lovely to see all the photos and videos of how you have all participated and been inspired by the activities. The smoothies and healthy snacks which you have been making looked so tasty and delicious and it has been fantastic seeing all the sporting activities you have been



involved in at home. Our sports day took place this week with many of the children currently attending school being able to compete in their bubbles and we know you at home were also doing lots of the events too. The points that the children have all earned from the sports

day events have all been submitted to the TCAT Inter Schools Sports Day Challenge. Let's see who the winning school will be!



GSP Nursery (EYFS)

Nursery have been busy this week finding out about healthy and unhealthy foods. We looked at our lunchboxes to see what was healthy/unhealthy in them and we practised our cutting skills to make our own healthy and unhealthy lunchboxes. We have made our own healthy snacks too, which included fruit and vegetable faces and juicy fruit lollipops.



Reception (EYFS)

We have been completing lots of activities related to Jack and the Beanstalk, including adding beans together to make ten. The children have made amazing collages of Jack and the Giant and were very proud to share their learning across their bubble groups. Children across reception have also enjoyed completing activities from the TCAT Sports Challenge, competing on behalf of the school and also to improve their own performances.



We have had great fun learning about how to keep our bodies and our minds healthy.

Years One and Two (KS1)

KS1 have really enjoyed the 'Healthy Body, Healthy Mind' topic over the last two weeks and we have been very impressed with their response to the physical challenges, healthy food ideas and wellbeing activities. Lots of children enjoyed taking on the healthy eating challenge, picking their own fruit at the farm or shop and blending it into a delicious smoothie. They also rose to the challenge of our virtual sports day and TCAT sports challenges despite the heat! We've also heard about pamper days and chilling out with yoga sessions. So a big well done to everyone for such a super effort! Well done to all the children still growing the bean plants they took home all those weeks ago. Some are now harvesting their first crop of beans so you must have looked after them very well! Finally we are all crossing our fingers that our very fat caterpillars will soon be emerging as beautiful butterflies. We can't wait to see them!



Years Three and Four (LKS2)

Over the last 2 weeks, LKS2 have taken part in our Healthy Body, Healthy Minds topic. We enjoyed taking part in our first ever virtual sports days and completed many physical activities. Some of our children have also enjoyed designing and making their own healthy smoothie containing a range of fruits and vegetables. This week we have also taken part in TCAT's virtual inter-school sport competition. The children in school have been earning points for Team GSP and we are eagerly awaiting the final results. Throughout the fortnight, the children have also been logging miles that they have completed by walking, running or cycling in the hope that we can hit our 1000mile target. Alongside all of this, we continue to be impressed with the English and Maths work that the children have been uploading onto Google Classroom.

It was lovely to catch up with all of you during our welfare calls and hear about what you have been doing at home - many of you this week have been trying to keep cool in your paddling pools.



Years Five and Six (UKS2)

It has been a fantastic week being able to welcome back some of our Year 6 children into school and so lovely to see their happy, smiling faces walk back down the red path once again. They have all settled into their new 'bubbles' well and enjoyed spending time with the staff teaching and working with them. It's as if the children have never been away and we are so proud of their attitudes! Also this week, our 'Healthy Body & Healthy Mind' fortnight draws to a close and it has been great to see so many of you taking part in the activities, including: the TCAT Inter Sports Competition, Smoothie Making Challenge and GSP 1000 Mile Count. In school, we have been taking part in the Inter-Sports challenges and are looking forward to logging our scores. At home, it has been lovely to see so many of you also taking part and the smoothies that many of you have made look absolutely delicious! Some children have also been writing stories and descriptions linked to the short animation 'Rock Paper Scissors' in English and we are very impressed with some of your writing. Keep it up!

Also this week, children from across Year 6 continue to engage with virtual High School transition events. Some children going to Penketh High have had opportunity to meet their form tutors in live video tours and chats. I know other High Schools have exciting things planned too, as we best prepare our oldest children for their next adventures.

In other news at home, we'd like to congratulate Dylan McVey from Oak Tree Class who has been keeping up with his Taekwondo skills at home and outside via Facebook and Zoom training sessions. Having shown such commitment, an online 'virtual' grading saw him achieve his black tag. Well done to him!

