

Grasmere Primary School

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Thursday 10th June 2020

Weekly Update

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As ever, I hope you and your child are well as our journey through this pandemic continues. I apologise for not writing last week but it was a busy time implementing a detailed risk assessment in preparation for wider opening. This week it has been lovely to complement our existing offer of provision for key worker and vulnerable children with welcoming back children in Reception. Although the school looks a little different the children have settled quickly and the warmth and enthusiasm of the staff have ensured a lovely return. Next week we can't wait to see Y6 children return. A reminder: if your child is eligible to return please read the detailed letter that can be found [here](#) and ensure you complete the parent school agreement and bring it in on your child's first day back.

The main challenge during this time has been the inevitable but constant uncertainty and navigating a clear path through this has not been easy at times. The loss of safe, consistent provision for all Grasmere children plays on every staff member's mind on a daily basis. We know that without the structure and security school provides [especially one as warm and caring as Grasmere] there are children who are missing out on what they need to progress and thrive academically but also socially and emotionally. Following the Government announcement on Tuesday, it is now clear that the vast majority of children will not be returning until September at the earliest.

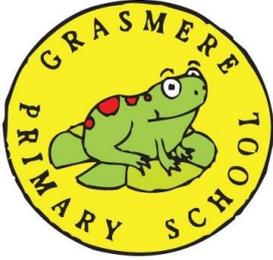
Although the school is desperate to get as many children as possible back, by following the current Government guidance, we can only do this via class hubs of 15. This takes an increased number of staff and as I have explained before, we have a smaller pool of staff to draw from. However, we will look carefully at a variety of possibilities and I will update you regarding the potential provision of further children returning in some capacity. However, please understand I am in no position to offer certainty nor would I want to promote false hope. Safety of staff and children remains the bottom line but I will communicate with you if there is a workable model as soon as possible. As things stand, the current planned provision remains in place.

For most children therefore, home learning continues. Although what the school has put in place for home learning has been successful and uptake has been good, I know of the daily struggle to motivate children to work remotely and the support and input it often needs from you. I urge you to continue to do what you can to promote the importance of continued



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learning at home, prioritising daily reading or phonics, some writing and maths. There are some lovely online reading books to share and read with your child [here](#). Staff work hard to find new ways to motivate children also. In most classes there has been a focus on Black Lives Matter and we would like children to enter a home school competition to celebrate achievements of Black people in Britain. Find out more [here](#).

But these are not easy times for anyone. If you are struggling or need support with any aspect of the current situation please get in touch with the school or beyond that there are a list of organisations and services on our website [here](#).

Finally, heartfelt wishes to you and, as we look forward to the weekend, fingers crossed for better weather and a chance to enjoy some sunshine.

Kind regards,

Nick



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