



Gorse Covert Primary School
Gorse Covert Road
Birchwood WA3 6TS
Headteacher: Mrs C Cooke



School Update

Dear Parents

School will be reopening for some pupils in Reception, Y1 and Y6 from Monday 15th June and we are very much looking forward to seeing them!

Y2, 3, 4 and 5

The announcement that the government no longer expects schools to have other year groups back before the end of term may have been a relief to some and great disappointment to others. Although there is no expectation, our school would very much like to find some opportunity to see children from other year groups before the end of term and senior leaders are now working together to see how we can make this happen. It will be a considerable challenge as all our staff are planned to support bubbles of children expected to be in school. However, we hope we might be able to offer something, even if it is only for a short time to spend some time with their class friends and teachers. As soon as we have a plan I will share that with you.

Home learning

Developing effective home learning has been a considerable challenge for staff and parents. We had no time to plan this before lockdown and Google Classroom had literally been installed just days before. Staff have done a fantastic job of learning how it works and have provided some excellent learning materials for your children. However, we do understand this has been a challenge for some, either because of a lack of appropriate IT equipment or because parents have been trying to work from home at the same time. I know that some have also found it hard to get your child engaged in the work too. This has been a national challenge and I am confident from what I have researched that our home learning offer, whilst not perfect, has been of a high standard compared to others. A handful of schools across the country have offered some live lessons which I know some of you would have liked but after discussions with staff, for a variety of reasons, we decided that this was not something we could offer at this time. Please rest assured that staff are very skilled in assessing children's learning and will make every effort to try and help them catch up once we are back in school.

Until this current situation resolves itself, it is likely that some form of home learning will continue into next term and so we will work with you to try to make it as effective as possible. Over these next few weeks we will look at how we can support you with this as best we can.

Frustrations

I suspect children might be becoming more frustrated or less motivated, as might you be too! I think any novelty factor may well have worn off for us all by now! I have asked teachers to try and contact some of you over the next few weeks to see if there is anything we can do to help. Please note that they may call from a private number. If you would like to speak to someone more urgently, please contact us on the email address below or give us a call. Unfortunately we are unable to accept more children in school at the moment unless they are in a priority year group or are children of key workers, as defined by the government.

Communication

From Monday 15th June, the school office will be manned as usual so you can phone the office. As we are not allowing visitors on the premises unless it is for urgent business or maintenance, Mrs Burgess will also be monitoring a new school email address which can be used for parent communication. The email address is: office@gorsecoverts.ch.co.uk

Yours sincerely

C Cooke
Headteacher