

Monday 4 May 2020

Dear families

I hope that you are all continuing to stay safe and physically and mentally well at this time. The staff at Goldfinch have said that they have really enjoyed being able to speak to you every couple of weeks and finding out how you are all getting on. We are very impressed with how the children have engaged with the learning being sent home and we thank you for your hard work and support.

We know that this can be very challenging especially when you have more than one child at home to support, are having to share computers/tablets to get learning done or if you are also having to continue working from home yourselves. As I have said before, the most important thing is that your children return to school happy, safe and well.

I hope that you are finding the weekly year group newsletters helpful in keeping you up to date with what is happening and how you can continue to support your child's learning at home. Please do continue to check our website <https://www.goldfinchprimary.org.uk/> where we upload all letters sent home to families and the weekly newsletters. You can also access our Twitter page via our website too where we can also share updates and you can see some of what the children have been doing whilst learning from home. Our Twitter page is **Goldfinch Prmr**

We have had an excellent take up of our weekly food bags for families entitled to free school meals or pupil premium. We are doing our utmost to vary the items each week so that you can vary the lunches you provide your child. We would like to say an enormous thank you to the lovely volunteer Susan who comes every week on her push bike to deliver some of these food bags to families who are self-isolating or live too far to come to the school and collect. We would also like to thank Mr Mireku who has been brilliant at helping out with these deliveries too!

We are looking forward to launching weekly google meets between class teachers, teaching assistants and members of the class so that the children can actually see one another and catch up with their friends. More information will follow shortly on how the children can login to these online video meet ups. Please be assured that it is 100% safe and these sessions can only be set up by the class teachers. We will also be sharing with you a *Google Meet Acceptable Use Policy* to ensure children follow the guidelines in taking part in these weekly meet ups safely. We appreciate the support of our parents and carers in ensuring the children know how to take part safely in these meet ups. These are not compulsory sessions, but we are taking the feedback from lots of you saying how much the children are missing their friends.

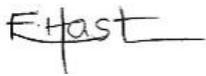
We remain uncertain for now about when schools will begin to consider opening and we wait to for government guidelines on how to open schools safely again in the future. Once we know more, I will of course write to you again with the next steps.



In the meantime, we hope that you will enjoy the video that some of the staff at Goldfinch have put together for the children and families. Please find it on our Twitter page and on our website. We will also make the link available to you via google classroom for Year 2/3/4/5/6 and we will email it to you via School Gateway. We hope you enjoy it as much as we all enjoyed putting it together!

Until we meet again, please stay safe and know that the staff are missing you all and we wish you all well.

Best wishes



Mrs Haston

Head Teacher