

Friday 12 June 2020

Dear Families

I hope that you have managed to keep yourselves safe and well and the May Half Term brought you some rest and an opportunity to go out on some local walks.

This week we welcomed back some children in Year 1 and Reception. On Monday 15 June, we will welcome back some of the children in Year 6. The children who are back have settled in really well and are happy to be back with their friends! The staff are also really happy to be reunited with the children.

You will have heard that the government has now confirmed that they are not expecting children from Years 2-5 to return before the end of term. We would much rather bring back more children but cannot until things are safe to do so. We will keep this under review and will let you know as soon as there is any change. If it is possible to bring back some children from Y2-5 before the end of term, you can be sure that we will make it happen.

I know that some of you have said that you are finding it hard to keep the children motivated to learn at home. We are doing everything that we can to ensure that the work sent is engaging and easy for you and the children to access and complete. Please keep talking to us and we will use your feedback to further improve the offer.

Please don't forget that children can also access Mathletics, TT RockStars and Epic. These are just a few of the online learning platforms they can use.

We have a team of staff who continue to work to ensure that the children at home are still learning and they are not forgotten! Every child at Goldfinch matters and we want to support all children (including those in Y2-5) with their wellbeing and in their learning.

Please can I remind you that if you did not sign up for your child to return to school either as a key worker or because they are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, **you must call us if you would like them to return**. We cannot allow children to turn up unannounced. We need to ensure that we have the space, resources and the correct ratio of staffing to enable the children to remain safe during this time.



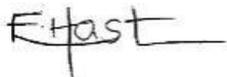
David Boyle, our CEO, sent you a letter earlier this week about the Black Lives Matter movement. I wanted to acknowledge the real concerns sparked by the death of George Floyd. We recognise how painful this senseless death is for many members of our community.

'As tragic as these last few weeks have been, as difficult, scary and uncertain as they've been, they have been an incredible opportunity for people to be awakened to some of these underlying trends. And they offer an opportunity for us to all work together to tackle them, to take them on, to change.' **Barack Obama.**

While conversations about racism may be difficult to have, it is essential that they take place, in an age appropriate way, in order for us to move forward. As a school, it is important for us to continue to commit to our shared values which remind us: our diversity is a strength and an asset; every individual has equal human value; a secure, safe environment and peaceful conflict resolution is essential to our community. Above all, we believe in the power of a great education to transform our children's life chances for the better.

Please know that our staff are available for you and your children. If you would like to talk with someone, you are able to contact your class teachers in the first instance or a member of the office team.

Best wishes



Emilie Haston
Head Teacher