



GORSE HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Forester Drive
Stalybridge
SK15 2DP

Tel: 0161 338 4262

Email: admin@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk

Headteacher: Miss A E Flood, BA Hons, PGCE, MA Education, NPQH

August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come towards the end of the summer holidays, I wanted to write to you to make you aware of our arrangements for the new school year. We welcome the opportunity for this to be a more normal school year, but we do emphasise that being mindful and cautious in approach is extremely important on our ongoing journey of living safely with Covid.

Covid Arrangements and Expectations

School will not be operating in school bubbles; however, we ask that you continue to support us in our effort to reduce transmission and keep school and families as safe as possible by regularly engaging in good hand and respiratory hygiene, maintaining distance, making the best use of space, and ventilating spaces. We will be continuing with these control measures within school. A cleaner will be on site throughout the school day in addition to the regular cleaning undertaken after school by the cleaning team. Staff will continue to engage in Lateral Flow Testing twice weekly.

We ask that you please inform us of all if your child has symptoms of Covid 19; is a suspected Covid 19 case; is a confirmed Covid 19 case.

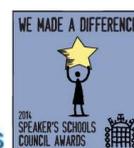
No child or adult will attend the school setting if:

- They have any symptoms of COVID 19. Should your child display any of symptoms of Covid 19- a new continuous cough, high temperature, change in taste and smell then they must not be brought to school.
- Have tested positive in the last 10 days. Should your child be identified as a confirmed Covid 19 case then they must isolate for the full 10 day isolation period and only attend school after this period, once well.

No adult (over the age of 18) will attend the school if:

- They have not been double vaccinated in the UK and have been identified as a close contact of a positive case in the last 10 days

Our Covid Risk Assessment for Step 4 and Outbreak Management Plan will be on the school website for the beginning of the new school year for you to access and refer to. School



continues to work with Tameside's Population Health Team and Health and Safety Team to advise and support us in keeping school as safe and possible.

Start and Finish Times

School reopens on Thursday 2nd Sept at 8:50 am. We are not operating staggered start and finish times. The children need to be outside of their new classroom external door for this time, where they will be met by their teacher and taken into the classroom to begin registration at 8:55 am. We advise that Nursery, Reception and Years 1 and 2 children enter and leave the school grounds through the Nursery gate and pathway leading to and from the school playground, and that KS2 children (Years 3 – 6) enter/ exit the school grounds via the first school gate on Forester Drive and then walk around to their classrooms on the pathway parallel to the main road. Those families with children in EYFS/KS1 and KS2 can choose either route for entry/ exit purposes. The school day finishes at 3:15 pm where again children are to be collected from outside of their classroom's external door.

Children who will be attending morning Nursery only will finish at 11:45am where they need to be collected from the Nursery building. Children attending full days will be picked up at 3:15pm from the Nursery building.

Breaktimes and Lunchtimes

We will be continuing with some of our Covid organisational arrangements for health and safety reasons. KS1 (Years 1 and 2) LKS2 (Years 3 and 4) and UKS2 (Years 5 and 6) will have separate breaktimes. Lunchtime for Reception children will be 11:45am – 1:00pm; for KS1 children 11:45 am – 12:45 pm; and for KS2 children 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm. Children will eat their lunch in the school dining hall. Children who are attending Nursery all day will have their lunch in the Nursery building with their teachers and midday supervisor. Children may bring their own packed lunch from home or opt for a school dinner.

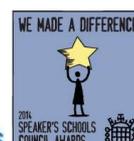
PE Kits

As the opportunity to wear their PE kit for the day of their PE day was successful, we have decided to continue with this arrangement. On reflection, it was felt that more children happily participated in PE sessions, the sessions started promptly and were longer in duration than if the children had to change into and out of their kits; and PE kits were washed more regularly as were not on pegs for weeks at a times during each half term. Please make sure that your child wears their PE kit with their school jumper/ cardigan over the top. Black/ grey plain joggers and a plain black or grey hoody can be worn during times of colder weather. Pumps should be worn for indoor PE; trainers can be worn for outside sessions. Please make sure that your child has appropriate footwear for the sessions. Jewellery must not be worn for PE sessions.

School Uniform

All children are expected to wear full school uniform. Our school uniform is:

- A maroon sweatshirt, pullover or cardigan
- A black sweatshirt- Year 6
- Fleece jacket (order from school office)
- Grey trousers, pinafore dress or skirt
- Yellow/ white polo shirt or shirt



- Black practical shoes

Drinks and Snacks

All children should bring their own drink in a refillable drinks bottle with their name and class on it. Fizzy drinks or energy drinks must not be sent into school please. Children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and Year 2 are provided with fruit as a snack each day. They can however bring their own choice of fruit/ healthy snack from home should they wish to do so. Children in Years 3 – 6 should bring their own healthy snack each day.

Assemblies

We hope to return to having our whole school assemblies on Monday and Friday mornings and KS assemblies on Weds as per arrangements pre Covid; however, at the present time these will continue virtually. We do hope to be able to welcome you into school/ church when possible for assemblies and celebrations so that you can be part of these special moments in person instead of virtually.

School Awards

The children receive Dojo points for their everyday efforts, which continuously tally throughout the year towards Dojo milestones: 50 Dojos- Certificate, 100 Dojos- Pencil and Rubber Prize, 150 Dojos- Certificate and Doughnut Treat; 250 Dojos- Certificate and Trophy.

Each Friday in our Celebration Assembly, various awards are presented: Class Certificates- one per class; Jigsaw Certificate- one per class; Kind Award; Headteacher Award; Lunchtime Superstars; and KS2 Star Bloggers.

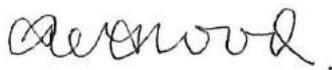
Children are in Houses: Red- Astley; Blue- Tame; Green- Cheetham; and Yellow- Stamford. House cubes are awarded to children for general behaviour around school which continuously tally for the term and a winning House for the term announced at the end of each school term.

Pupil Voice

School Council, Eco Committee, Africa Committee, and Sports Council representatives will be chosen in each class. The children will be awarded with a badge as a representative. In KS2 Well Being Ambassadors will be chosen per class and they will also be awarded with a badge. Meetings will be held for the above Councils and Committees so that the children are continually involved in sharing ideas, organising activities and decision making throughout the school year.

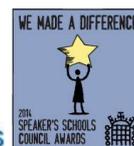
We hope that you have had a restful and happy summer and we look forward to the start of this new school year. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Miss A Flood

Headteacher





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15 July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come towards the end of, what has been a very challenging academic year I wanted to contact you to say thank you for all your support and to say that I appreciate how difficult things have been for all of you and for the staff in school. We have the best team in school, who have worked exceptionally hard during the most challenging of years.

We have been instructed by the Local Authority that in Primary Schools Covid Risk Assessment control measures and current arrangements should continue until the end of this term; therefore, they will continue until then at Gorse Hall Primary and Nursery School. I will write to you over the summer to let you know about Sept plans and arrangements.

Covid restrictions change in England from Mon 19th July 2021: no limit on meeting people but try to meet others outside where possible; people currently working from home should return to the workplace gradually; nightclubs open and a return to full capacity for theatre and cinema audiences; businesses and large events encouraged to use Covid-certification to limit the spread of the virus; face coverings recommended in crowded public spaces, such as public transport; and social distancing no longer mandatory.

Isolation rules are not changing from 19th July 2021. This means that if your child has been asked to self-isolate by school, they absolutely must do so for the full isolation period. Isolation will change from 16th August 2021.

There are several things happening next week:

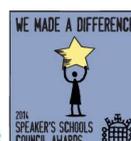
We are kicking the week off with the Olympics which will go on all through the week. There are lots of exciting activities planned. Children should wear their PE kits and trainers to school each day so that they are comfortable and ready to take part. They have also been asked to wear something that is the colour of their school House. Those unsure about which house they are in, need to clarify this with the teacher.

Monday, 19th July: 100% Attendance Awards- children with 100% attendance for this academic year will receive a certificate and badge.

Tuesday, 20th July: Governor Award Celebration- one child from each class will receive a certificate and trophy from the Governors for all round excellence.

Thursday, 22nd July: 250 Dojo Awards- certificates and trophies will be awarded.

Thursday, 22nd July: Yr 6 Treat- as part of the leaving celebrations for Year 6 children, a waffle van will come to school and they will have waffles in the afternoon as a treat.



Thursday, 22nd July: School Picnic- we have planned a **whole school picnic**. If your child brings a packed lunch, please send this in as usual that day. Children who have school dinners will be provided with a picnic lunch and then all the children and staff will eat their lunch outside on the grass. This is weather permitting.

Friday, 23rd July: Olympic Award Ceremony will take place.

Friday, 23rd July: Leaving Celebrations

The Y6 leavers' arrangements will have to be a little different this year but we are trying our best to make their last day at Gorse Hall as special and as fabulous as possible. The children in Year 6 will have a class party with pizzas on the morning of 23rd July. Due to the Covid situation at present in school and locally, school will not be inviting parents into school for a Leavers' Assembly. This will be recorded so will be on the website during the afternoon of Friday, 23rd July and we will send parents a link. Parents are invited to school for 3:30 pm on that day to be part of the Leavers' Farewell outside and are asked to socially distance and wear face coverings. You need to stand around the Nursery path area as this is where the farewell will take place.

Just to keep you informed, there will be lots of workmen in school over the summer holidays as Tameside have planned to fit solar panels, a new boiler and to change some of the lighting to LED. We are also having a canopy fitted in the Reception playground and there is decoration being carried out and new carpets fitted. It will really be very busy.

Finally, I just wanted to reiterate my thanks to you for supporting your child and school this year- it is very much appreciated. To those moving on to new schools, we wish you well and know you will all do your very best and be a credit to yourselves and your families.

Have a lovely, safe summer and we look forward to seeing you all back in school in September.

Yours sincerely



Miss A Flood
Headteacher





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5 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly I wanted to say how proud I am of our children and families for the way you have all handled this incredibly difficult situation. As a mum I know home learning is by no means easy and I take my hat off to you all. Thank you for all the support school has received and for all you are doing for our children – it really is incredibly hard to balance home learning, running a home and keeping a job going so well done.

There are a few things to tell you about:

Thursday, 4 March is World Book Day – although school will be closed to all but keyworker children, we intend to celebrate this by asking those in school to come dressed as a character from a book. We would also like the children at home to dress up too and to send photos into school to admin@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk We are looking forward to seeing many great costumes and ideas.

Friday, 19 March is Red Nose Day and hopefully we will be back at school by then. We thought it might be nice for the children to have a Wacky Hair day but will send more details of this nearer the time.

Willow Wood are fundraising for Easter by holding a Willow Wood Bunny Hop and we would like to support this. Children will be hopping, skipping or jumping across the playground or school hall to raise funds for the Hospice. Each child who enters will get a set of brightly coloured bunny ears, a certificate and a chocolate treat.

Positivity cards are being posted out today to children who have been chosen by teachers for a range of reasons: being kind, hardworking, brave and displaying a positive learning attitude. We hope these bring smiles to the children's faces.

Next week's competition is Valentine's creations. These could range from poems, cards, pictures, crafts, baking, gardening, musical ventures, in fact anything at your children want to use to celebrate Valentine's Day. Please send entries into admin@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk by Friday, 12 February.

E-safety day is Tuesday, 9th February. The assembly will be at 9.15am on this theme. Please log on and watch and there will be an activity sent to each year group by teachers in



relation to staying safe on line. There is also a link on the school website to E-safety resources.

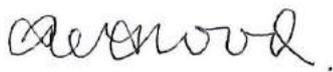
School closes next Friday, 12 February for the half term holiday. We would like the children and staff to enjoy a well earned break. We are still obliged to report track and trace cases through the holiday, so please continue to notify school of any positive covid cases.

The next work pack for all year groups will be ready to be picked up from Monday, 22 February.

After half term, we hope to have more information about plans for school to reopen and we will be in touch as soon as we can to share details once we have them.

Thank you again for all the support.

Yours sincerely



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5 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for all of your support to school and thank you in advance for all the hard work you will put into helping your child with their learning during these challenging times. The school staff have worked exceptionally hard today to try and organise the necessary steps to support all children throughout this six week lockdown period. School is closed now until further notice other than for vulnerable and keyworker children.

All children will be provided with high quality, daily learning throughout the closure period. In nursery, reception, year 1 and year 2, daily work will be set through the Seesaw platform. The teacher and Learning Support Assistants who currently work with your children will be available to assist learning during school hours. Please contact them via Seesaw or via their direct email addresses which can be found at the end of this letter. Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 work will be set via the Microsoft Teams platform. All children have been provided with a login and password. If this is lost or forgotten, please contact your child's classteacher via the email provided at the end of this letter. Parent guides for supporting learning through Teams can be found on the school website by clicking on the covid and remote learning tab. The teacher and Learning Support Assistants who currently work with your children will be available to assist learning during school hours. All of our SEND children have a login for Doodle Maths and English which can be accessed from home, a differentiated work pack will be available for collection from school tomorrow. Daily learning will consist of maths, english, thematic work, reading and spelling. Teachers will provide paper work packs for children without access to the internet or devices. These can be collected from school from tomorrow. Please ring to check that your child's pack is ready before you come.

We have reflected on the previous school closure and bubble closures and we feel that central to supporting our children in the best possible way continually, is the need for ongoing communication between home and school. Feedback will be given on home learning tasks by the teacher at different points during the lockdown period. Photographs of work, word documents, power points etc can be emailed to teachers. Children will receive dojos given by teachers and a weekly certificate will be awarded per class for excellent learning completed that week. It would also be lovely if you could send photographs of any home learning or extra activities your child is enjoying doing whilst not being in school which we can share on our Facebook page and school blog. The teacher's role during this period also includes providing any pastoral guidance to ensure that children's mental health is well provided for during this period.

Teachers will be available during the working day 9-3.30pm to communicate via email when necessary. Any emails sent outside of this period will not be responded to until the next



working day. A skeleton timetable for staff working in school has been put together and will be implemented from tomorrow to minimise the risk of exposure to the children, staff and their families. Should you absolutely require telephone contact with the classteacher, due to this skeleton timetable, they will respond via the school landline when they are next in school. Email contact will be more immediate and is the better way of contacting teachers.

The email addresses are as follows:

Nursery - nicola.welsh@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk
RLP - lindsey.pickering@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk
RRB - rebecca.billance@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk
1CH - chantel.hyland@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk
1PH - paula.hennessy@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk
2LG - louise.gledhill@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk
2JC - jill.cunliffe@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk
3EC/OH- emma.capes@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk; orla.hill@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk
3AF - alison.fyfe@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk
4JW - julie.welsh@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk
4KS - kirstie.smith@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk
5GB - georgia.beswick@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk
5BL - bernadette.lacey@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk;
6JC - james.chambers@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk
6JR - joanne.read@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk

Any general queries need to continue to be sent to admin@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk. There will be a senior leader in school every day and a member of the office team.

Anything for the school blog or Facebook page should be sent to head@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk. Things you are specifically proud of your child for doing should be sent with a photograph and a paragraph about what it is, to this address and these will be shared.

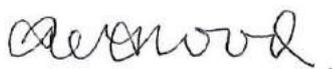
Safeguarding matters should be reported to head@gorsehall.tameside.sch.uk. A member of the school safeguarding team is available in school daily for telephone contact and for dealing with any issues of a safeguarding nature.

We are awaiting details of the Free School Meals voucher scheme but in the interim food parcels will be available for those who are eligible for free school meals. Please contact the school office if this is something you are interested in.

We are incredibly proud of all the children for the fabulous work they have done since September and are missing them terribly already. We look forward to the day when this is all over and school can return to normal.

On behalf of myself and the Staff Team we send good wishes to you all. Please keep healthy and safe and look after yourselves and your families during these worrying times.

Yours sincerely



Miss A Flood
Headteacher

