



GARTON ON THE WOLDS C.E. (V.C.) SCHOOL

Station Road, Garton on the Wolds,
Drifffield, East Riding of Yorkshire, YO25 3EX
Tel. 01377 253110 E-mail: garton@eastriding.gov.uk
Website: www.gartonprimary.co.uk



Headteacher: Mrs. J. Marsden

Thursday 2nd April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

When I began the role of Interim Executive Headteacher just under six weeks ago I could not have foreseen the challenges and situation that would unfold. All my plans to ensure we continued the education and standards that Mrs Chadwick had always driven forward in our school have been turned upside down by our current situation. It is with huge disappointment that I was forced to cancel school visits, Mother's Day services and the Easter Services, which should have taken place tomorrow. However, throughout the past weeks and in the forthcoming weeks, it is more important than ever to focus on what we are thankful for and what is most important in life. First, the focus of our school community has been more than ever driven by the safety and well-being of children, staff and families. I have so many people to thank for supporting me during these past few weeks: the children for how sensibly they conducted themselves in response to increased hand-washing and changed events; parents for their continued support in such a rapidly developing situation; and the support of our governing body. I always knew what amazing staff we had in our collaboration but the way they have come together over the past few weeks has been incredible. I am so thankful for all their hard work and dedication, which over the past few weeks has gone above what has ever been expected in the past. They have done this without a second thought to the pressures they personally face in the current pandemic and I want to thank each and every one of them for allowing our school to perform its vital role in supporting the children of key workers, particularly those who we will all rely on if this virus affects our loved ones.

We continue to offer a wealth of resources on the school website to support home-learning. Over the Easter break we will not be adding more tasks as we feel it is important to be mindful of the impact of the massive changes and pressures families are feeling at this time. However, teachers have added some fun Easter activities and there is a link to 'Spring Chicken' one of our favourite Easter songs. It would be fantastic to see photos of children singing this, perhaps in their Easter bonnets! These can be found under the 'Easter' tab in the Home Learning area of the website. We will continue to add tasks after the Easter break. For those parents who wish to continue home-learning during the Easter break, there are many links to resources such as White Rose Maths on the website.

The local authority has asked me to draw parents' attention to two key areas regarding the safeguarding and protection of children during the coming weeks. First there is a link which signposts support if you have a concern about any young person during this time. Unfortunately, many families are under increased strain for a variety of reasons and may need support at this time. These links will enable you to know who to contact in the event of any concerns. Secondly, as more children are spending increased time online it is vital that we ensure they are adequately safeguarded from harm, therefore there are several links added to our website to support families with this. There are activities which I would encourage you to share and discuss with your children. All safeguarding resources and links can be found under the 'Safeguarding' tab in the Home Learning area of the website.

Finally, I would like to wish all our families a wonderful Easter and would like to thank Reverend Jane Anderson for her message and prayer which has been shared on our website – please see the 'Easter' tab in the Home learning area. I look forward to welcoming Mr Jamie Baxter as Headteacher and I know he will be well-supported by a fantastic team.

Have a safe and healthy Easter break.

J. Marsden

Mrs J Marsden
Interim Executive Headteacher

Garton on the Wolds Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

