



GOLDINGTON GREEN ACADEMY

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are all keeping as well as possible during these difficult times as we work to keep our schools open for the parents/carers who are working to keep us safe at home and protecting us at this very hard time.

Thank you again to our families who are only accessing school care places if it is absolutely necessary to keep others in our community alive and well. As we know home is the best place for our children wherever possible.

Schools are completely new to this way of operating too. The lack of notice we were given has added to the confusion and anxiety for all. We had no notice and no preparation time. In providing work we are ensuring that pupils can be busy, parents feel there's enough to do and teachers feel a sense of purpose.

We are, as instructed, practising social distancing so the daily experience for pupils needing a school care place is somewhat limited and much less sociable than they are used to and many of the children are not with children even from their own year group.

By now you have hopefully all received the weekly home learning that the teachers have been working hard to put together. We have kept this learning very much along the lines of what they would have been learning about had schools remained open. This is to ensure any gaps in their learning are kept to a minimum for when all is back to normal. Our website is full of resources that you may find fun and helpful too.

Many families may have worries about educating children at home and dealing with the work being sent home for your child and we appreciate this may be adding to the already stressful conditions we find ourselves under. Some of you may be really enjoying the challenge.

A few points which might help:

1) This is not home-schooling. This is an unprecedented emergency situation impacting on the whole world. Normal home-schooling is a choice, where parents consider, plan for it and become their child's school teacher in very particular and personalised ways.

Our present arrangements are, at best, distance learning. It's also new to everyone, teachers and families and evolving all the time with some technical difficulties too. The teachers have ensured that every family has an email address to which they can send home their planned work weekly. This



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means that you have their email address and as such, as much as possible the teachers will respond to queries.

2) You are, and always have been, your child's primary educator(s). If you decide that your child isn't going to engage with anything sent home and you have other ideas which suit your family better then that is your right and we will not be holding you to account in any way. There is nothing to stress or feel guilty about.

Children of almost all ages will enjoy and benefit from all or any of the following:

- baking/cooking
- gardening
- exercising
- card and board games
- jigsaws
- imaginative free play for younger pupils
- putting on a 'production' with a sibling or two
- keeping a daily journal (written or audio or video)
- drawing, painting, modelling
- watching educational programmes on TV
- listening to music
- research on a topic of interest presented any way the child chooses or you suggest
- READING, READING, READING – there are also lots of audio books being read online, such as David Walliams.

Please don't worry if it doesn't all get done and remember that once this is over we will have plenty of time to ensure that we get back on track with the usual curriculum for all pupils with multiple opportunities for revisiting the new content. The work that some of you are doing now at home is different and largely based on reinforcement and revision rather than new learning.



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4) We totally understand that it is not possible to facilitate distance learning with a primary aged child and work from home yourself at the same time. If you're trying to do that, please stop now! You can certainly have activities where your child learns alongside, but we understand that your main focus for periods of the day may well be your job, and survival. Please don't feel guilty that you can't do everything!

5) If you feel overwhelmed by the communication from school about possible activities and resources don't open the emails for a while or check social media. In a way the stress for teachers across the country at the moment is the worry that they might not be providing enough and so they are probably erring on the side of too much! Just use the activities if they suit you and not if they don't. Our love and care for our families through this difficult time is much more important than keeping up with a prescribed amount of school work. We, as well as you, need to get used to the idea that this situation is far from perfect, very strange and that many of the usual rules and expectations just cannot apply. Look after yourselves and we will attempt to do the same. Minimising stress is absolutely vital in a time like this for our collective mental health.

School staff are available to support around their own health and caring obligations. We are in this together and possibly for an extended period of time. I'm sure we will settle into more of a pattern and routine but whilst it's all very new the key message is not to worry and to keep those we love as safe as possible. Thank you again for all you are doing.

Mrs C Skingsley

Head Teacher



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