

Believe Care Persevere Succeed



Headteacher: Mrs A Armstrong
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Sunday 11th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update

We have entered a second lockdown and I hope that you and your families and friends are all continuing to keep safe and well. The number of cases of the virus is rising in the Basingstoke and Deane area and there are already some school communities who are affected. We need to remain vigilant and even more aware of how we must all contribute to lowering the risk of transmission. I apologise if this first part of my letter sounds like I am nagging, but there are some important messages I need to get across to you all.

Please remember that we are particularly at risk at drop off and pick up times. This is when the number of people on site is at its very highest. It is vital that the one-way system is strictly followed, no arguments, no excuses, even if there is not a school adult there to supervise. I have already said that it is not always possible to have an adult outside to stop people from ignoring the system that we have clearly communicated to you all. We should not have to remind anyone about expectations so please make sure you are following the rules. We have a number of medically vulnerable parents who have no choice but to be on site. They must not be put at risk. Please remember that the virus is very much here and having a devastating impact in other areas of the country. We don't want the same to happen here.

From tomorrow, please make sure that you are literally entering site, dropping your child and leaving site immediately. Don't arrive early and hang around waiting for the doors to open, keep moving through the site, maintaining social distancing of a minimum of 2 metres between you and everyone else at all times. If you are able to leave your child at the front gate and let them walk the rest of the way by themselves, please do. The fewer people we have on site the better. Thank you for helping us in this way.

In order to keep the school open, we need our staff to be able to come to work. If they are exposed to the virus, they will not be able to support your children and we may need to close certain bubbles within the school if cases rise. We are doing our very best to minimise the risks but we cannot make the environment completely safe and risk free. Please do your bit to help everyone else.

This week, James Pickering is working from home as he has been told by the NHS App that he needs to self-isolate. The App doesn't tell you who you have been in contact with or why you therefore need to isolate. Knowing how careful James and his family have been, it has really brought it home to all of us. Miss Stewart and the Year 5/6 team have everything organised and we have already made contingency plans for such eventualities so Goldfinch class will be in school as usual.

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News from home



Well done to the Rance family who have put this very moving tribute in their window in readiness for November 11th.

I have seen poppies in windows as I have driven through Tadley. They look so impressive. The templates are attached to this letter for those of you who still want to take part.

Remembrance Day



Our 2019 coin collection and poppy display

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Today is remembrance Sunday and the usual ceremonies that take place have had to be adjusted to take account of the current situation. Nevertheless, there have been some moving tributes to the veterans. We will be marking 11 am on Wednesday 11th with a minute's silence throughout the school, joining with people up and down the country who will be doing the same. We have Royal British Legion poppies available in school and these will be placed outside the front and back of the building for you to collect.

We would normally have a coin collection and place the coins inside the outline of a poppy but we are not able to do this safely this year. If you are able to donate any spare coins it would still be much appreciated. We will collect them by placing the sealed coin collection containers outside, so you can make your contributions as usual but please do so by dropping the coins in without touching the containers at all. There will also be hand sanitiser available next to the collection containers. Thank you.

There are already some poppies made from plastic drinks bottles on the school fence. Take a look to inspire you to make your own to add to our display. If you have any more, do add them and please send in more plastic bottles if you have them. We need the bottles as soon as possible and by Tuesday morning at the very latest. Thank you.

Children in Need

Friday 13th November is Children in Need day when we raise money for this very worthy cause. Joe Wicks is doing a special workout and the aim is to get as many participants as possible to have a go at it at some point during the day. We will be taking part so the dress theme for the day this year is sportswear so your child does not need to wear any school uniform at all on Friday! We will let you know details about how you can make donations later in the week.

I will be in touch again this week.

Best wishes to you all.

Ali Armstrong
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'Tomorrow will be a good day.'
Colonel Tom Moore

Some superheroes don't wear capes...



...they wear medals

#ThankYouCaptainTomMoore



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