



Newsletter 5th September 2020

Dear Parents

Having been back at school for 2 full weeks now, it is really pleasing to see the children settle in to their learning and embrace our new vision of caring about our learning, each other and the world around us.

We have been very busy: we celebrated our first outstanding and positive learning and behaviour from inspiring children; adopted a lion; and launched our reading for pleasure campaign! Our Health & Happiness principle has started with a bang as all classes have benefited from Tennis tuition and the start of a Tuesday lunchtime Golden Mile running club.

Thank you to all parents who joined me on my vision and values and reading for pleasure / phonics zoom calls. If you missed them, please take a look on the website and do get in touch with any questions. As ever, thank you for helping us all to stay safe by wearing your masks on school grounds and maintaining distance.

Mr Price

Meeting the teachers

Over the next few weeks, we will be offering you the chance to have a short conversation with your child's teacher after school. To remain in line with social distancing and keep everyone safe, they will be held outside and just one parent a day between 3.30-3.40pm. It will give you a chance to ask any questions and to get to know your class teacher as well as giving them the opportunity to share initial observations and thoughts with you.

Reading for Pleasure and Phonics

Thank you to those who joined the Reading for Pleasure and Phonics zoom call this week. For those who missed it, or the vision and values presentation last week, both are available on the school website.

You should have received a surprise book to open and share with your child this week. Please take some time to enjoy it, explore it and embrace it! Maybe read it somewhere special or share it with other relatives to read it too. All we ask is that you return it by the end of the month. Look out for other exciting reading for pleasure activities.

We are embracing reading in school too and are pleased to have started a reading club at lunchtimes for children to sign up to in our new library area, with a great additional collection of books that have been purchased this term.

All children are now fully reintegrated with the daily phonics lessons and have been bringing reading books home. They should read them 3 times at home before they are swapped building confidence, fluency and comprehension skills on each read. If you have any questions, please contact your class teacher through the admin@gaglebrook.org.uk address.

Keeping each other safe

I just wanted to thank everyone for maintaining social distancing and wearing masks on pick up and drop off. I am aware that there are conflicting stories in the media but please be assured we are doing everything within our control to keep the children and staff safe at school.

Do remember if anyone in your household has any of the three symptoms (new continuous cough, loss of taste / smell, high temperature) they and their household must self-isolate until they get a test result. If a child has a negative test children need to have been symptom free for 48 hours before returning to school.

We have had a request from a local resident that some people have been turning in their drive and children have been on their property. I appreciate that parking is not easy around school (something we are working on) but please do be considerate of our neighbours.

Dragonflies

We are continuing to assess the impact of Coronavirus before being able to commit to re-opening Dragonflies but would like to reopen when possible and safe. This may mean only opening initially for one year group to avoid mixing class bubbles. We appreciate this would not be an ideal scenario but safety is our main priority at this stage.

However, we would like to hear from parents to understand your priorities for wraparound care should it return in some form and would encourage you to complete the survey which can be found on our Twitter or Facebook page. Thank you to those

Diary Dates - October

7th Walk to School day – travel survey completed by children
8th World Sight Day
10th World Mental Health day
16th World Food day – inc donations for food bank
22nd One Planet parent celebration & End of Term

Health & Happiness for all

This first Term we are celebrating Health & Happiness from a One Planet perspective and understand the value of Happiness and how we can help ourselves and others to achieve this.

We have a new Happiness display in the main atrium with all the children having discussed the subject over the past 2 weeks. Those children who have been making their teachers happy have been receiving Dojo points which go towards our end of week celebration. Last week's winners can be seen filling our fantastic collection of bird feeders as a treat – hopefully bringing even more happiness to school as we watch the birds flock to the playground and fields.

We also carried out a wellbeing survey with the children and it was fantastic to hear if the why they love being in Gagle Brook and learning (see overleaf for quotes).

The children have been keeping healthy by taking part in tennis lessons from an external coach who is also running a Golden Mile running club every Tuesday lunchtime for each year group. He has praised the children's listening, focus and manners – all great qualities. Watch out for the next Andy Murray or Heather Watson!

Finally, at the end of the newsletter is information for families who might want some support at home. It has been and is a difficult time so taking advantage of such courses could be really beneficial.

Searching for more trees

All adults in school are now using the Ecosia search engine when working online. Ecosia labels itself as “The search engine that plants trees” as they use advertising profit to plant trees where they are needed most in the world. It would be wonderful if all families could make the switch from google to www.ecosia.org on your home page.



A few quotes from children in our wellbeing survey – showing how our One Planet Happiness principle is at work in school:

"I like being back in school because I haven't seen my friends in a long time"

"I like playing outside with my friends and my maths with Mrs Evans!"

"I like coming to school because it's the best thing!"

"I like listening to Mr Milward and drawing."

Some of our children who showed they cared about their learning last week helped fill the bird feeders around school as a reward:



Our tennis coaching is continuing for all year groups supporting our Health & Happiness principle this term and we have also started a running club at lunchtime on Tuesday. Ducklings and Goslings made a great start – watch out for our big running initiative next week.



**Oxfordshire
Adult
Learning**

PROVIDED BY ABINGDON & WITNEY COLLEGE

Supporting your child to do well in school

Parent Involvement + School Involvement = Success



Inspiring Confidence

A FREE course for parents delivered by an experienced Family Learning tutor

Participate in a ten-week programme (10 x 1 hour online per week) and encourage your child to do well in school

- Explore different learning styles and approaches to learning.
- Positive disciplining and boundary setting.
- Develop resilience. Understand and manage emotions.
- Exploring the benefits of a growth mindset.

INTERESTED?

The online sessions will be delivered via Microsoft Teams

To find out more please contact Karen Ariss, Family Learning Tutor:

E-mail: Karen.Ariss@abingdon-witney.ac.uk

Mobile: +44 7919 298297

Learn something new and feel better for it!