



Gorse Hill School  
Avening St  
Swindon  
SN2 8BZ

T: 01793 523800  
[office@gorsehill.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:office@gorsehill.swindon.sch.uk)  
[www.gorsehill.swindon.sch.uk](http://www.gorsehill.swindon.sch.uk)

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**RE: Letter from the Principal, Mr Graham**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, I would like to thank you and your child/ren for welcoming me to Gorse Hill. It has been a pleasure to begin to meet you in the morning and afternoons and I have been humbled by your kind words and warm welcome.

Last week, I wrote to you about my vision for the school and our core values – our **CARE** values – which underpin a belief that our children, as well as us, should aim to ***‘the best versions of ourselves, all of the time’***. It has been very positive to see so many of our pupils already embracing our CARE values through the considerate behaviour and attitudes they show to others, as well as the pride they take in themselves.

- C** – We show **courage** when faced with a challenge;
- A** – We show **appreciation** of the rights, faiths and beliefs of others;
- R** – We **respect** and take **responsibility** for ourselves, each other and our environment;
- E** – We aim for **excellence** through having high expectations.

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, via a live stream on Crowdcast, I discussed my vision and ethos for the school. If you were not able to attend this, you can still view it on Crowdcast (registration required) or by following Gorse Hill School on Facebook.

I very much look forward to seeking the views of parents/carers moving forwards and working closely in partnership with you to secure the best outcomes for your child/ren.

Polite notices/reminders for parents:

**Mobile phones:** We understand that some of our Year 6 children who walk home alone may need to bring their mobile phone to school with them. To safeguard all children, if your child is bringing a mobile phone into school, they will need to hand them to their teacher at the start of the day. They will be stored securely and returned to your child at the end of the day.

**Smart watches:** We do not encourage children to bring smart watches to school. Not only are they expensive and could they become lost/damaged, but, as with mobile phones, we do not permit any device which pupils can receive/send messages on or take photographs. Therefore, if your child does have a smart watch, please ask them to leave it at home where it is safe!

**Contacting your child's teacher:** If you need to contact your child's class teacher with any questions, please e-mail [office@gorsehill.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:office@gorsehill.swindon.sch.uk). The email will then be directed to your child's class teacher or the appropriate member of staff.

**School Uniform:** Our school uniform is what unites our children as proud members of the Gorse Hill School community. School uniform also ensures equality in that all pupils are expected to wear the same. I am aware that last term, it may have been communicated that children do not need to wear a full uniform, given that they returned to school in March. Whilst I do not expect parents/carers to purchase new school uniform/school shoes at this point in the year, I do strongly encourage you to send your children to school in a full uniform if you can:

The Gorse Hill Primary School uniform consists of:

- A white polo shirt, shirt, or blouse.
- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan.
- Black or grey trousers, shorts, or skirt.
- Blue checked dresses in the summer.
- Sensible black shoes, not trainers.

**Please be aware that from September 2021, a full school uniform, including school shoes, will be mandatory.** Trainers (unless for PE) and boots will not be deemed acceptable footwear from this point.

**One-way system:** Thank you to the overwhelming majority of parents who are adhering to the one-way system – this is greatly appreciated! To ensure the health and well-being of all, we do expect all parents and children to maintain the one-way system when entering and leaving the playground at the start and the end of the day.

We are aware that at times the exit gate can become congested. Please can we ask that when parents and children exit the playground, social distancing is maintained at all times and also leave the footpath outside of the school clear for people exiting.

To ensure that there is as little congestion as possible, all parents need to come onto the playground to collect their child and not stand outside the exit gate waiting for their child to be sent to them. The safety of our children is our utmost priority, and to ensure the safety of all of the children at the end of the day, teachers will only be able to send a child to their parent/carer when they can see them standing in the playground.

If you do have any questions about the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to speak with myself or a member of staff.

I wish you and your family well at this time.

Yours sincerely,



Mr L Graham  
Principal