

Thursday 12th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week has been difficult for our school. We have had 6 positive covid cases. We wish them a speedy recovery. After taking advice from the DfE the Reception and Year 1 bubble will reopen on Tuesday 24th November. As a result of this closure we are experiencing staff shortages in school. We will inform you immediately of any necessary closures. Year 2 will be closed on Friday 13th November for one day and will reopen on Monday 16th November. These are uncertain times which we know we will work through. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Please note, if one of your family goes for a covid test, please keep all siblings at home until the test results have been received. Please email gca-enquiries@ipmat.co.uk with all updates and confirmation of results.

Celebration and Achievements

In Class achievement assemblies were held on Friday 6th November. The following children received awards:

Reception – Jacob and William
Year 1 – Kyle and Bella
Year 2 – Holly and Kensi
Year 3 – Marybeth and Frankie
Year 4 – Jamie and Mia
Year 5 - Krystal and Summer
Year 6 – Jacob and Alicia

Message from the governors.

Well, we find ourselves in another national lockdown. These are certainly difficult times for all of us. We hope that you and your families are safe and well. At least on this occasion the schools are to remain open which is so important for the development and well-being of our children. We thank Mrs Harris and all the staff who continue to work hard to provide as safe and positive an environment for the children as they can and to deliver the high quality education which we know the children receive at Gawthorpe.

As part of our development and monitoring role, the governors have a "Governor Development Morning" each term. It's purpose is to spend time, as a group, in school in the working day, to meet with staff and children. The development mornings cover various aspects of school life and are linked to the school's development priorities. This term we are obviously unable to visit school and so we are trying to think creatively of ways to carry out our role virtually. We are all disappointed that this is the only way forward at this time.

As chair of the governing board I attend a termly meeting with the chairs of the other schools within the Inspire Multi Academy Trust. This meeting was held virtually in October. The meetings provide an opportunity to discuss governing board issues, find out about the work and progress of the MAT and insight into the work of the other governing boards and to share good practise.

We all look forward to better times ahead. In the meantime please stay safe and take care.

Children in Need

Friday 13th November, we will celebrate Children in Need day. This will be a non-uniform day for the children and the theme is 'Be Unique', come as yourself in your own choice of clothes. We hope that Reception and Year 1/Year 2 will still dress up. Links for activities can be found at <https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>. Please do not add items relating to Children in Need on to seesaw. Any contributions towards the collection for the charity are welcomed. The children will design Pudsey Bear face masks.

National Anti-bully week – w/c 16th November

This is a great opportunity to highlight issues around this topic. The theme is "united against bullying". The children will continue the 'be unique' theme, discussing the difference between bullying and falling out.

Uniform

The new MAT risk assessment has been published, please go to the link <https://www.gawthorpeacademy.co.uk/policies> Risk Assessment Review.

We are required to ventilate all classrooms by opening doors and windows. Although the heating is on it is very cold in school. Please make sure your child has extra layers on like a vest, skin or a plain black or navy fleece.

Christmas

Instead of parties this year, we are going to have a Christmas event in each class on **Wednesday 16th December**. We would like to provide children with a drink, some crisps and treats. As we cannot ask you to donate food this year instead we are going to hold a **Dress Up Day** on Friday 4th December.

We suggest a 50p donation to be handed into the class teacher which will be used to provide refreshments on Wednesday 16th December.

Each class is going to organise their own event but they will all be on the same afternoon.

Nursery

Nursery would like to ask that each child brings a spare set of clothes in a plastic bag labelled with their name. The bag will be quarantined in nursery and will only be used if your child has an accident. If the bag goes home with wet clothes and comes back again, we will keep recording the dates of these transitions on the label in order to ensure the bag is quarantined for the correct amount of time.

This is due to Nursery not having enough spare clothes and hopefully to prevent parents from having to come to Nursery at the time of the accident to drop spare clothes off if we should have nothing to fit. We would recommend packing: Pants x2, Socks x2, Trousers x2, 1 pair of pumps.

Will your child be 4 by 31 August 2021?

Please see attached poster to register your child for school.

Covid related absence

Please make sure you let us know immediately if your child has tested positive as we need to act quickly to inform Public Health England as well as inform parents and staff of any necessary closures and isolation requirements. Please email gca-enquiries@ipmat.co.uk.

Re Positive COVID tests and Self Isolation

The government recommend that the NHS COVID 19 App is downloaded. If you test positive or are identified as a contact of someone who has recently tested positive for COVID-19, you will receive an email/text alert from the NHS Test and Trace Service advising that you must now self-isolate as soon as possible and stay at home. The message will advise the date of the isolation period and it is a legal duty to comply with this.

The email/text message can be used as evidence and you can download a letter from the Isolation Note Service.

Schools will be asking staff and parents to provide evidence of the need to self-isolate so that an accurate record can be kept in school.

If you have any issues providing this information, please speak to the Headteacher.

Picture News

Please find attached this week's Picture News poster. Picture News is a resource used in school to promote discussion around current issues. Each week there is a homework activity with an image and a question. We would encourage you to talk about this at home with the children. There are no right or wrong answers, it is a forum for discussion.



Mrs C Harris
Head of School



Mrs P Gill
Deputy Head of School



<u>Upcoming Diary Dates</u>		
Dates	Event	Who is it for?
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need Day	Everyone in Nursery and School <u>NON UNIFORM DAY</u>
w/c 16 th November	Anti-bullying week	
Friday 4 th December	Christmas Dress Up Day	Everyone in Nursery and School – donation of 50p
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Event	Everyone in Nursery and School Events in all classes
Friday 18 th December	Break up for Christmas	
Monday 4 th January 2021	INSET Day	
Tuesday 5 th January 2021	Return to school	





Picture News

at Home




9th November 2020

What's going on this week?



Cruise ships around the world have found themselves docked and empty due to current travel restrictions. One former cruise ship captain, Paul Derham, has been using his ferry to organise tours to sail around some of the docked cruise ships in Dorset. Each of the cruise ships still have around 80-100 crew on board to ensure they remain safe at anchor. Some of the unused cruise ships have offered to work as 'floating hospitals' whilst they are unable to travel.

Things to talk about at home...

-  Have you ever been on or seen a boat? Have you ever seen a cruise ship?
-  If the cruise ships are empty, do you think they should be used for other things?
-  Can you think of any other ways the cruise ships could be used?


Please note any interesting thoughts or comments here...



Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others on our discussion board: www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



**Will your
child be 4
by 31 August 2021?**



If the answer is **YES** and you're a Wakefield resident you must apply for a full-time school place **NOW**, as your child will not automatically be given a place.

APPLY ONLINE, APPLY ON TIME

Complete your online application form at
www.wakefield.gov.uk/admit

and submit it by the closing date of 15 January 2021

This service is easy to use and you can log on to get your offer of a place on **16 April 2021**.



wakefieldcouncil
working for you

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