

# Galleywood Infant School

## Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,



I hope you have enjoyed a snowy weekend! What a perfect end to our White learning unit, and the chance to experience snow, ice and icicles at first hand. Wrap up warm, go for a walk, make some footprints and see what you can find.

We are hearing daily from our welfare calls how hard many children are finding it to be separated from their friends, missing their class community and struggling with motivation. I am so sorry that this lockdown is impacting so heavily on children and families.

We continue to work towards a reopening date of 8<sup>th</sup> March, awaiting confirmation from the government and guidance around lifting the lockdown. Teachers are planning our approach including collaborative and shared tasks within each class bubble as children come back together after 11 weeks. I know how much you are enjoying the chance to see one another on Teams meetings each week; thank you for prioritising this session amongst many work and family commitments.

This week Yr1 and Yr2 children have received some ideas for a Wellbeing day, a complete break from the home learning packs and some suggestions for things your child and family might find relaxing and fun. It is very nearly half term, so you could save some of the ideas for next week. This is attached again in case the email went astray.



Our Galleywood Bears are so very cute! A very big thank you to Jo and Natalie from GIPA, who came to me with the idea to buy these for every child, and a bigger bear for each class. I loved seeing the children's reactions last Monday when they opened their packs, and then the photos on Tapestry of children working, playing and even sleeping next to their bears!



Remote learning and the absence of any clubs or extra activities means that most children are spending a lot of time on screens and online. There is some very helpful advice for parents around security settings and how to apply these on different devices at:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/every-family-matters-lets-talk-online-safety-with-the-2-johns>

There is a huge amount of information on The Two Johns' website around internet safety at all ages:

[www.esafetytraining.org](http://www.esafetytraining.org)

For parents who have not previously been familiar with Microsoft teams there are some information videos here: <https://www.facebook.com/100050770882560/videos/250000840035610/>

and a flyer attached to this newsletter with further information.

## What is going on in school?



All the book shelves in the library have been emptied, Mrs Needham and the teachers have been sorting very big piles of books and Mr Jonathan has given the walls of the library 3 coats of white paint! We are starting on phase 1 of the refurbishment using the money raised by GIPA last year and during the autumn term. We are very excited and think you will be too- look out for a treehouse indoors, look out for foxes and badgers, owls and hedgehogs, rabbits and squirrels in our woodland themed library, which will gradually take shape over the next few months.



Thank you to GIPA and to all the families who have enabled fundraising to continue despite the challenges of 2020 and 2021.

The following information has been sent to schools, and for distribution to parents regarding awareness of the symptoms of type 1 diabetes in children:



East of England Children and Young People's Diabetes Network  
Box 280 The Weston Centre  
Addenbrooke's Hospital  
Hills Road  
Cambridge  
CB2 0QQ

### Dear Parents,

The NHS has asked for this message to be sent out to you.

Undiagnosed Type 1 diabetes in children requires urgent medical attention.

If your child has **ANY** of the main symptoms of Type 1 diabetes please make an **urgent** GP appointment or contact the Out of Hours service. The main symptoms are known as the 4 Ts – Thirst, Toilet, Tiredness and Thinner. If you notice your child is thirsty or using the toilet more frequently, is always feeling tired, or has lost weight recently, please seek immediate medical advice.

NHS services are very well equipped to look after children safely if they are unwell. Please do not delay seeking medical advice.

More information is available here:

<https://www.diabetes.org.uk/diabetes-the-basics/diabetes-symptoms>