



Friday 2nd October 2020

Dear Families

The weeks are beginning to fly by and it seems that Autumn is definitely with us now. The school continues to buzz with the children's excitement about their learning. I have been really impressed this week with the standard of work in the children's books, particularly in History. KS1 children have been able to compare and contrast two maps, thinking carefully about why the map from Sir Francis Drake's era is different from a modern map and KS2 children have been deepening their understanding of the Windrush. In Yarmer, the EYFS children have been working really hard on developing their fine motor skills and really enjoying the challenge of their new learning play passports.

We continue to follow the government guidelines within the school to ensure that our children and staff are kept safe. I am very grateful to have a wonderful team who ensure that the school day can run as smoothly as possible for the children whilst also keeping them safe. The staff are working extremely hard to do this including covering two or three playground/lunchtime duties a day to enable the bubbles to stay separate. Whilst it may look effortless to ensure the school runs smoothly, our team are working doubly hard to ensure the bubbles, cleaning and handwashing can all take place. We must continue to remember that we are still in the middle of a pandemic and that this year will look different to other years. We thank you for your patience and understanding with this.

Have a lovely weekend.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'L. Garside'.

Miss Garside
Executive Head

Remote Learning Survey

We are continuing to ensure that we are prepared for the event of a bubble closure or full lockdown. We asked a couple of weeks ago for parents to complete a survey about remote learning access to support our understanding of the challenges some of our families may face. So far we have only had replies for 33 children. Can I ask that you please complete the survey over the weekend so that we can have a full picture of our families needs and how best we can support you. The link is below.

<https://forms.gle/arDZ3ETvcq4RM49D6>



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Remote Learning Plan: Guide for Parents

Along with this letter, you will have also been sent our Remote Learning Guide for Parents. This sets out what we will provide for our children in the event of a bubble or local lockdown or if a child has to self isolate. Please take time to read the guide so that you understand what will happen in these events. EYFS children will need access to Tapestry so please ensure you have your child's log in details. Years 1 - 6 will need access to their Google Classroom. Teachers are currently teaching children how to learn and access this in school and are setting tasks to be completed at home so that the children are confident with using this platform. Please support your child to do this and let the class teacher know if you are experiencing any issues. This will be a new way of learning for everyone so there are bound to be a few bumps along the way!

Forest and Beach School

This week saw the highly anticipated return of Forest and Beach school. This half term, the Year 2s from Leas Foot and Bantham Class are enjoying this experience. Based on feedback from last year, we have decided that each class will have two half termly blocks of forest school over the year rather than a whole term in one block. Class teachers will inform parents on their class newsletters when it is their class' turn.

Friends of Thurlestone School

There was an excellent turn out on Monday evening for the Friends of Thurlestone School's AGM. Obviously this year is going to be a challenge as we will be unable to hold many of our 'normal' fundraisers, however there were many parents who were keen to keep the group running to ensure there is still a sense of school community. We pass our thanks to Tim Bunn who stepped down as Chair and Elisa Hesse who stood down as Treasurer. Elaine Hanmer-Grant remains in post as Secretary to support the new committee who were appointed. Sarah Dynes has taken on the role of Chair, supported by Nicola Coulson who has previously undertaken the role. Please keep an eye out for the first communications from the 2020/21 FTS Committee.

Parking

Sadly, we continue to be contacted by members of the public complaining about the way in which members of our school community are parking at the beginning and end of the school day. Can I please remind you again that KS1 parents can use the Parish Hall car park to drop off and pick up, and KS2 parents should park along Court Park Road and walk the remainder of the way, through the cut through at the bottom of Glebe Field. It is not acceptable for anyone to have their drives blocked or to be put in danger because of careless parking.



Rule of Six

Please can we remind parents that it is an offence to gather in a group of more than 6 people unless they are all from the same household, this includes on and around school grounds. Please ensure that you maintain social distancing on the playground if you are waiting for your child to be dismissed and can we please ask that you leave swiftly with your child through the one way system. We also ask that you do not gather in large groups on the street or in the car park.

Individual Photographs

Unfortunately, Tempest had to cancel our individual photographs last week, we are pleased to pass on that this has now been re-arranged for Monday 12th October. As before, this will be individual photos only.

Parent-Teacher Communication

Can I remind you that the class emails remain open should you wish to contact a class teacher. The class teacher will contact you, as appropriate by email or telephone, as soon as they can. Please be aware that teachers are teaching and doing break/lunch duties most days so it may not be possible until the end of the school day.

We are approaching the time where we normally hold parent evenings. This is an important part of the school year for parents, children and teachers! This year we will be holding these consultations virtually using Google Classroom. More information about dates/times and the procedure will be sent out shortly.