



# Goldstone Federation News

*Together we SHINE.*



13.1.21

Dear Parents/Carers

## Happy New Year and Thankyou.

It feels odd saying happy new year to you all when it's definitely anything but, however I do hope that 2021 improves for all of us and that all our families across the Federation keep safe and well and are reunited with loved ones as soon as we can be.

It has been a very strange and distressing start to the term with staff, pupils and parents having to deal with an incredible amount of upheaval whether it be to working patterns, school routines or dealing with a fast changing government response to the pandemic, this year has already thrown a huge amount of challenge our way.

The governors and myself are very proud of the way our staff have responded and I think you would be hard pressed to find a better remote learning provision in many schools around the country. Teachers are working incredibly hard to fulfil the DFE request that learning resembles the timetable set in school and the activities and online lessons I have seen have been very well thought through and explained.

However all teachers realise that children are not at school and parents have differing abilities and different drains on their time, a large number having to fit in work around the schooling as well. Please don't be hard on yourselves if you are finding it difficult to support your child, particularly the younger ones who require more of your presence. This is a time when we all have to just try to do the best we can, engaging in the core subjects of Maths and English, focussing on reading, phonics and times tables are the most important areas to prioritise and then catch up on other activities when you can. The children will be fine and will catch up, particularly if they are younger as children statistically make the most progress over years R, 1 and 2 than they ever do in their schooling.

Teachers are working very hard and are also juggling their own children in some cases and the requirement to come into school and teach keyworker children so the remote learning on offer is the only provision that we can make going forward. Independent worksheets and packs are not educationally sound and your child should just have a remote learning exercise book for writing in at home to use to support the learning on offer. (If not please request one from school). We do expect every child to engage with the learning in some way and will be contacting parents to see how we can support those struggling in the coming days and weeks.

Additionally I just need to say a really **heartfelt thankyou**. The majority of parents have followed the lockdown guidance that children are safer at home and have only approached us if and when they truly cannot have children at home because they are working as keyworkers. For this, I personally, am immensely grateful. Balancing the safety of staff and children (even families) is very difficult and a massive responsibility and I have not been as overwhelmed as some of my local colleagues have been in trying to do this. All because of your actions, again thankyou.

Finally please can I ask that if your situation does change and you need to request a place in school then please contact admin at either school because staff cannot really answer your requests. They will need to be looked at thoroughly and reflected on in line with our current Risk Assessment and DFE / LA guidance which teachers do not always have at their disposal. Use dojos and teacher emails for work related queries but leave school places for admin and myself to pick up.

Wishing you all the very best,

Keep safe,

*REWilliams*

Rachael Williams (Executive Headteacher)