



## Garlinge Primary School and Nursery

21<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would firstly like to take this opportunity to wish that you and all of your families are remaining well during these most extraordinary of times. This must remain the overwhelming focus of our lives for the coming weeks and I sincerely hope that all members of the Garlinge family continue to look after each other until we are back together. I would also like to express a very heartfelt thanks, on behalf of all of our staff, to all of our community who are Key Workers in these difficult days. I have had the pleasure of speaking to many of you whilst we have been offering the Key Worker childcare facility and everyone is extremely grateful for the jobs that you are doing. Thank you very much.

Whilst the school is officially 'closed', I can assure you that staff are still extremely busy in the background, as there is much that is being done; we have provided free school meal food vouchers to over 250 families, continued to answer all administration queries and begun to process the 120 offers that have been made to families who are sending their children to Garlinge in September. To that effect, if you do have any enquiries, please continue to use the main switchboard number, 221877, as calls have been diverted and will be answered. There is also a wealth of information on our school website: [www.garlingeprimary.co.uk](http://www.garlingeprimary.co.uk) so please do also consult that regularly where possible. Also, please remember to access the new Weduc free communication app that we recently launched. If you need a reminder of your login details please email [info@garlinge.kent.sch.uk](mailto:info@garlinge.kent.sch.uk). This will increasingly be a useful tool for us to be able to keep in touch with families.

Obviously when the school closed, it was done quickly and in accordance with government wishes, as you would expect. I would like to clarify to all parents that I have no 'inside knowledge' as to when it may be possible for the school to re-open. I sit and watch the daily briefings as we all do and look at guidance that we receive from Kent County Council, but no one at this stage can be sure as to when we will be back. What I can and will do is ensure that when we are asked to officially re-open, I will go above and beyond to make certain that it is done as safely and securely as possible, for all pupils, staff and families.

We are now officially moving into what would have been Term 5, where children should be returning to begin their new topics within the classroom. Staff have been working hard recently to update the Home Learning section of the school website. From Wednesday this week (22<sup>th</sup> April), we will be able to provide a day by day guide to online learning that will support your children whilst they are at home. Teachers are collaborating to provide activities that can be completed at home if you wish. We realise that what is on the website will never recreate the normal classroom experience, however we are trying to give some suggestions as to what children can be working on at home to support their studies, whether they are working on their own or supported by an adult or older sibling.

We are also trying to assist with home/school contact by providing a generic email address for parents to contact their child's class teacher and share what their children have been doing within their learning. This is an opportunity where parents can send in a picture of something done at home, or ask a simple question about an aspect of their learning. This is something that we are hoping will work well, but we would ask parents and carers to bear in mind that there are up to 30 parents who may be using this email address, so to not send through too many emails.

What we are looking to do is use a common email address, with the prefix of your child's class, for example:

[6A@garlinge.kent.sch.uk](mailto:6A@garlinge.kent.sch.uk) if your child is in class 6A, or  
[1C@garlinge.kent.sch.uk](mailto:1C@garlinge.kent.sch.uk) if your child is in class 1C, and so on.

What I would like to also say however is that please don't worry too much about the amount of home studying that you are doing. We want to ensure that pupils are kept busy, but that can take many forms and just as much learning can take place doing activities with their loved ones. There have been lots of creative play, home baking, family reading and many other activities that I have seen, which are all excellent ways of learning new skills.

All children, as well as adults, will be affected by what is going on at the moment, and the education of all pupils is being interrupted. What I would like to reassure you of once again, is that when the children are finally able to return, we will be prepared and ready to go and I have no doubt that old routines will be quickly re-established. We have greatly missed the interaction that we have with your children and we are all looking forward to seeing them back at Garlinge when the time is right.

Please take care,



James Williams  
Headteacher