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FROM THE HEADMASTER: Mr P K Savage BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH

23rd March 2020

Dear Pupils

I hope that you all had a good weekend.

The Gad's Family

You will have heard teachers and other adults in school talk about the 'Gad's Family' many times. Maybe you will have experienced what this means yourself, or perhaps you haven't yet, but now is the time that we are all going to prove that our community really is one big family.

It will probably have felt a bit strange this morning to wake up and not put on your school uniform. Some of you might be disappointed not to be seeing your friends, and I think (even if you won't admit it!) some of you might be a just little bit sorry not to be going into your favourite lessons.

Well, that's why I wanted to write to you to let you know that even if you are stuck at home, you are definitely not alone, and your teachers remain there for you and ready to help you – whether the help you need is with your learning, or if something else is worrying you.

Using your school e-mail address, you can e-mail your teachers or ask your parents to do it for you. If you have a general question about anything, you can e-mail help@gadshillschool.org and someone will be on hand to help you as soon as possible.

Helping at Home

Being part of the 'Gad's Family' means thinking of others and doing what you can to help. There are a few very simple things that you can do at home to be of great assistance. Here are just a few ideas:

- **Get dressed early.** Getting dressed puts you in the right frame of mind and will make you feel more positive and ready for the day.
- **Make your bed.** There are all sorts of little jobs around the house that you can do to help your family. Making your bed is the very easiest of them all, so make sure you do it every morning. Think about the other little jobs you can do, like regularly tidying away your toys or books or helping to make meals.
- **Remember the person looking after you might need to work too.** Lots of adults have been asked to work at home this week. For many mums and dads, this will mean trying to balance doing their own work with looking after you. Try to be

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understanding, and do as much as you can for yourself to make things easier. Don't nag them or expect them to be able to give you their attention all the time.

- **Stay safe online.** You'll want to keep in touch with your friends, which is a really important thing to do. For older children, that might mean through messaging apps or social media on your phones. The problem is that when some people might be a little bit nervous about what's going on, arguments can start more easily. Sometimes people type things on a phone that they wouldn't say face-to-face. Do what you can to avoid falling out with others, and definitely try to spend as much time as possible away from your screens when you can. Avoiding problems online will make things easier for everyone.
- **Be kind.** As well as doing all the little jobs around the house, one of the very best ways in which you can help everyone is to be as kind as you possibly can to others. If you have a little brother or sister who is driving you mad, try to be patient and help by making time in your day to play with them. Keep smiling and ask what you can do for those around you.

Working at home

Please do send in work when you have completed it – there are various ways in which you can do that and already my colleagues are seeing some great pieces of work coming in. There are also a lot of ways in which you can study which don't necessarily need to be submitted to your teachers, including reading as much as you can.

Just because you are at home, it does not mean that we will stop rewarding great work, and I hope to be able to award some distinctions for outstanding efforts, even if I can't hand them out personally in an assembly. I will be asking teachers to let me know who has been working particularly well.

If you have done some great work or have found an interesting way to learn that makes the most of this unusual situation, please feel free to share it with us. If your parents would like to send any pictures of great things you have done, they can send them to Mrs Carr (n.carr@gadshillschool.org) who could share them in a news story.

Final Thought

Junior and Kindergarten pupils might remember my assembly a few weeks ago, on Ash Wednesday. We talked about the story of Lent, in the Christian tradition, in which Jesus, preparing to go out to the world in the service of God, went into the desert for 40 days and nights, to reflect and to pray, and how he was tempted three times by Satan. I wonder if anyone can remember what those temptations were? Can you tell your family about any other assemblies you've heard this year?

We talked about how that Christian story taught us all something – *whatever our faith* – about being true to ourselves and to our values in difficult times. That resilience, and not letting yourself be distracted from what matters to you, even when life is challenging, is also at the heart of our school motto: *First to thine own self be true.*

I am really looking forward to seeing all the ways in which this change of our usual routine brings out the best in all of you, by making you stop to think about the things that really matter

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to you and how you can help others - and I know that in the long run that can only make the Gad's Family stronger and closer together.

Yours sincerely



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