

Gad's Hill School / Covid-19 Update 7th May 2020

Dear Parents

I trust that you are all well. This is a (relatively) brief update as we conclude another week of learning.

VE Day Bank Holiday

Thank you once again for supporting a wonderful effort with schoolwork this week. I have enjoyed seeing a great deal of highly impressive submissions from children of all ages and it has been fantastic to see them engage with each other over their learning on Teams.

Tomorrow is, of course, a bank holiday and so there is no expectation that children complete work. Come Monday morning, however, there will once again be plenty of tasks available online for pupils to tackle and teachers ready and willing to support.

Having said that, I have seen today that lots of you have been working on bunting, cakes and other decorations and treats for the 75th anniversary of VE Day. If you are participating in this tomorrow, please do share pictures with Mrs Blann or your class teachers next week so that we can draw together all the different celebrations from across our community.

Easing of social distancing restrictions

We anticipate that this weekend may bring the easing of some lockdown restrictions that have been in place since March. We may also see an indication of the increased opening of schools over the coming weeks and months.

I wanted to take this opportunity to reassure you all that our own action-planning and the assessment and mitigation of specific onsite risks is already well underway, so that no time should be lost in meeting Government-mandated milestones towards a full reopening.

However, a very large proportion of planning for our Gad's Hill site will be dependent on the particular detail issued by the Department for Education and the order in which any phased reopening might be directed.

If Sunday does herald a timescale for an increase in classroom-based provision nationwide, I would simply ask please for your patience for a short while, so that we can address the many resultant logistical and safeguarding considerations. We are committed to sharing our plans with parents as soon as we are possibly able to and the safety and wellbeing of pupils remains our highest priority,

Parental Survey

Thank you very much indeed to everyone who completed the Covid-19 Parental Survey, which closed yesterday evening. We have today been busy digesting your feedback and this analysis will continue early next week, along with ongoing adjustments to ensure continued quality provision of Distance Learning.

One thing that I would highlight is that we are thrilled that the overwhelming majority of you feel that your child is making good or very good progress with their learning currently. I draw your attention to this simply because I want to emphasise that the school has clearly been able to support many

families with education in these challenging circumstances. If you are feeling that things are not going so well at home right now, we really urge you to let your child's tutor, Mr Tyler, Miss Long, Mrs Grant or me know so that our team can help.

Teams Tip

For our Junior and Senior pupils, I'd like to suggest one tip that might be of great help: if you are stuck on any piece of work, use the conversation feed in the appropriate channel to speak to your teacher. But! Make sure that you use the @ symbol before typing the teacher's name (eg. @p.savage) – this will send them a notification to let them know you're in search of help. They might not be able to respond immediately, but will assist as soon as possible.

Why not also use the same '@ mentions' to ask a friend too, just like you would in class? Or use the conversation feed (as many of you have been doing) to share things that you have found interesting in your learning, or would like to know more about.

Once again, thank you all for your support. I hope that you will be able to have something of a rest this weekend and that the coming days will continue to bring more positive news for us all.

Kind regards
Paul Savage