



Thursday 28th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday evening the Prime Minister announced that it will not be possible for children to return face-to-face learning in school immediately after February half-term and instead hopes it will be safe to begin the re-opening of schools and colleges from Monday 8th March. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity.

Whilst I know this is not the message you will want to hear, it is important that we stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives. Until we are able to re-open school, we will continue working in the way that we currently are. Term will end on Friday 12th February and the new term will begin on Monday 22nd February. School will close as usual during half-term. The Department for Education has confirmed that we are not expected to be open to any children during this week.

We will be open to vulnerable children and children of critical workers after February half-term as we are now. Our nursery will also continue to be fully open to all our children on our register. Learning will once again be available remotely, for all our children working at home.

All staff are participating in the Primary Schools Asymptomatic Testing Programme. This began on Monday and means all our staff are now able to test for COVID-19 twice a week, at home. This has been put in place, by the government, to stop the spread of the virus by identifying asymptomatic positive cases. Anyone who tests positive through the test will then self-isolate along with any close contacts, helping to stop the spread of the virus in our community.

I am so proud of how well all our children are working at home. I would like to say to all our parents – you are doing enough and **your best is more than good enough**. We completely understand how difficult it can be to motivate or support your child to learn remotely. Being at home is not the same as being in school and children do not always behave in the same way as they would if they were here. Please do not put too much pressure on yourselves and never compare what you are doing at home with other parents and families. Everyone is different and that's what makes everyone unique.

If you are struggling for a device or Wi-Fi access and haven't already been in touch, please let us know as we may be able to help you. Whilst we have prepared the work on Microsoft Teams for Years 1 – 6 in such a way that you should not need to print anything out, we are happy to print anything you need so do get in touch.

We are here to support you and your children, whether they are at home or in school. If you need any advice, help, support or would just like to give us some feedback on any aspect of school please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's class teacher on 01507 327393 or via enquiries@grimoldby.lincs.sch.uk.

Please can I ask you politely not to message teachers directly in the evenings or at weekends? Just like everyone else, staff do need a break too and many have their own families to support. They are working so hard to do the very best they can for you. Our enquiries email address is always manned and anything urgent can be sent to this address and someone will get back to you.



Next week is Children's Mental Health week with the theme of 'Express Yourself'. Class teachers will be discussing this with children during their daily check-in sessions – please do feel free to tweet or send us any pictures. 'Express Yourself' is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. This could be through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities that make you feel good.

Staying safe online remains essential for all children and families. Mr Spendlow has produced a poster to help remind children and families of eight important tips – especially when using Microsoft Teams. A copy is on our website (on the Online Safety page) and also at the bottom of this letter.

I'd also like to remind you of our helpful YouTube video showing how to access and upload work onto Microsoft Teams. It also explains other methods for getting work to us if access to devices or internet is limited in your household. It can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aN_jqHT4Ok4

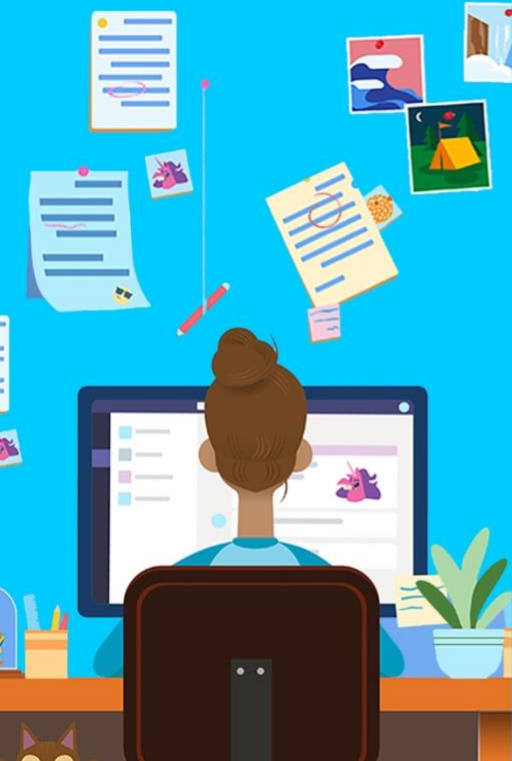
As always safeguarding remains our priority. If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact school as soon as possible. Our Safeguarding Team is Antonia Brooks (DSL), Stuart Spendlow (DDSL), Sophie Waters (SENDCo) and Caroline Jaines (Family Support Worker). Alternatively you can contact Children's Services directly on 01522 782111 for advice or to report a concern.

We always enjoy seeing what our children are up to at home and sharing what's happening in school via Twitter. It's a great way for us all to stay in touch and pass on messages. Do follow us @grimoldbyschool and you can also follow your child's class Twitter page too.

We are and we will continue to get through this together.

Sending my very best wishes,

Antonia Brooks
Head Teacher



8 Tips for staying Safe Online

- 1** Even though you're at home, classroom rules still apply. Be polite, sensible and work to the best of your ability.
- 2** Use classroom language and correct spelling when writing messages on Teams. Don't use 'u' for 'you' or things like LOL.
- 3** Take regular screen breaks. Being in front of a screen all day isn't healthy so make sure you have regular breaks and do some tasks by hand if possible.
- 4** Don't use Teams to hold personal conversations - it's for your work only. Remember that you're not allowed to use the Chat or Video features to talk to anyone else other than your teachers.
- 5** If you ever feel uncomfortable or threatened online, visit ceop.police.uk and make a report. It is never okay to feel unsafe online.
- 6** Look after your mental health and wellbeing. Use the Wednesday Emotional Check-In to tell your teacher how you're feeling.
- 7** Don't share passwords or accounts with your friends. It's your account so keep it safe.
- 8** If a message ever pops up that you're unsure about, show it to a trusted adult and ask their advice.