



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave • Garstang • Lancashire • PR3 1YE • Tel: 01995 603226
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18th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

It's been a lovely week at Garstang Community Academy – the sun has shone and so have the people. Both children and staff are now finding their routines, and the normal buzz of a fabulous learning community is starting to return at last, which is amazing and a real testament to the resilience of everyone involved.

These are this week's reminders and reflections:

- **Virtual/distance/home learning** – as I'm sure you know, 'Schools Synergy' has been our software package of choice for behaviour and attendance for some time now and you as parents have been able to access it to check on these things from home. Over the last three weeks we have been enrolling the children themselves on this system, together with Microsoft Office 365, and this will be complete in the next few days. The reason for this is that Schools Synergy will be the homework hub (replacing Satchel/Show My Homework) during the normal course of things as well as the essential, central conduit, for all work, resources and information in the event of individual isolation, or small group/bubble/whole school lockdown. Mrs Tasker and Mrs Crowe, who are running this project in school, have sent/will send more information about this, but please, please, please make sure that your children both know, and have recorded, their log-in details.
- **Mockdown** - On a related topic, we have been reflecting and learning from our lockdown experiences and are keen to try out some new procedures and experiences next Friday during the school Inset day, which we are calling 'Mockdown'. Again, Mrs Crow and Mrs Tasker have been/will be in touch, but please encourage your child to get involved – there is a short whole school activity we would like children to do in the morning, and some children have been/will be asked to be involved in some short 'live lessons' in the afternoon. Your support and encouragement are very much appreciated as we aim for an even better distance/virtual-learning experience if this is imposed on us in the future to any degree.



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- **Covid-safe Practice** – please remind children to keep physical contact to a minimum both inside and outside school, and to bring clean (washed) facemasks to school. We do have ones we can give out, but this necessitates periods of time without them, which we would rather avoid if at all possible.

That's enough from me for another week – have a great weekend and please encourage your children to do the same, without disruption to the local community. We have had one or two reports of our children exhibiting some anti-social behaviour – we always take a dim view of this and, in line with DfE policy, always reserve the right to issue school consequences for such things if we deem that to be appropriate.

Thank you again for your patience and support

Yours sincerely

Alasdair Ashcroft
Headteacher



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