



Gentleshaw Primary Academy

18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Academy Closure – Learning from home

It seems increasingly likely that schools may be forced to close at some point in the coming days/weeks.

In preparation for such an event, we have been working on developing a strategy that we feel will be the best way to support parents and children with learning at home during this challenging time. In addition to sending home packs & sharing links to learning sites, we are setting up each class with their own PRIVATE Facebook group, which we will be using as a tool to communicate lesson information and support with children via their parents.

How will this work?

1. Upon closure, we will share with you the name of the specific group of your child's class and you will be asked to request to join the group.
2. To ensure security, as part of your request, you will be asked to answer a series of questions to make clear whose parent you are.
3. Once we have verified this, we will accept your request to join the group and ask you to agree to a set of Terms & Conditions which you must adhere to. If the terms and conditions are not followed, that person will be removed from the group.
4. Work packs are going to be made available to be taken home, and teachers will upload a 'Facebook Live' 20 minute 'lesson' each morning, a video aimed to accompany the work packs and make clear to pupils exactly what tasks they should be working on for that day. If you do not catch the live video, this will be available to view as a saved video to watch. There may be additional videos on your class group including: assemblies, phonics and story time also available.
5. You can use the 'comments' area to seek further support/guidance or ask any questions related to the day's lesson and staff will aim to be responsive to these messages between 9am-4pm. You can also share your child's work

Please note: this is designed for parents to join, we **DO NOT** expect children to be having and using a Facebook account. Any requests directly from children will be rejected.

Why Facebook?

We did look at a number of options and considered different platforms to offer this type of parental/lesson support. We settled on Facebook as without having the time for organising training, we recognised that the vast majority of our staff are already familiar/comfortable using this, along with the vast majority of our parents. In addition, we felt that it was the most widely accessible tool, easily used on a range of devices including smart phones. We feel that this will be the best way in which we can offer teacher lead support to all children, that is responsive to feedback and requests for further guidance and support, should we need to close in these coming days/weeks.

Please contact a member of our Leadership Team should you wish to further discuss this letter.

Thank you for your support.

G Parsons

Headteacher