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Headteacher: Mr R Goffee



1 May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

### **Hello from Green Lane!**

I wanted to give you all a little update from Green Lane to let you know how we are and what is happening in school. Firstly can I start by saying I hope all is well with you all and you're keeping as safe as possible, this is such a difficult time for so many reasons but when I hear about a family who has lost a loved one to this horrible virus or talk to Reverend Harding about the amount of funerals he is doing it brings it back home to me how important this lockdown has been and how many lives have been so sadly lost and affected. So, a big well done to you all – as I said at Friday Celebration this morning you really are all champions for staying at home, putting lives and livelihoods on hold to fight this disease.

To be honest my heart rate is still a little raised after this morning's efforts, it's certainly easier with the whole school than it is on your own! We do think it is a great way of keeping in touch with you all and having that contact with our Green Lane family. We really do think about you all and get very excited when you email photographs, videos or work in – they make our day! As you may have seen Mrs. Linsley has been doing story reading each evening over the last few weeks and from your comments you seem to have enjoyed them (I particularly enjoyed her den building!), as you know she has also been running a helpline each afternoon for any of you who are struggling with it all; please ring if you need a chat – I've phoned her a few times myself! The number is: 0792 8812316 and she runs it week days between 1pm and 3pm – if the number is busy please try again later but don't leave a voicemail or a text as the phone is a bit temperamental.

We have asked staff if they feel comfortable going onto social media and if they do to record special messages and a story of their own to go onto Facebook and that is starting next week, with Mr Lees who is trying to get his in before 'lockdown haircut' disaster strikes! In school we continue to support the Key Worker children - we have had 40 children in school over the week. It is not easy managing them as they cover a lot of ages and we are trying to keep staffing to an absolute minimum. This is childcare and we are not carrying out any formal teaching in school. Due to the closure of all nurseries in the town we have taken on a 2-year-old who is a part of a Key Worker family – he has put a lot of smiles on our faces!

Teachers continue to put learning packs together and are engaging with parents through the class emails we set up. Our website has links to the home learning and also to the online lessons and BBC Bitesize set up in conjunction with the DfE. This week we have been contacting those families we haven't heard from since lockdown started - just so they know we are here. A big job is copying the packs of home learning which about 70 parents request for pickup every fortnight, we had to get the photocopier engineer in yesterday to keep it going! If you need a pack just ask and we can add you to the list. The link to the home learning section on our website is below:

<http://www.greenlane.durham.sch.uk/parents/home-learning/>

A reminder of the class email addresses is also below. Teaching staff check their inboxes each day and will be back in touch within 24 hours to help with any queries or concerns you may have; if they become ill Mrs Linsley or myself will pick up your message.

Those email addresses are:

[eyfsclass@greenlane.durham.sch.uk](mailto:eyfsclass@greenlane.durham.sch.uk) (Mrs Linsley)  
[year1class@greenlane.durham.sch.uk](mailto:year1class@greenlane.durham.sch.uk) (Miss Bryden)  
[year1-2class@greenlane.durham.sch.uk](mailto:year1-2class@greenlane.durham.sch.uk) (Mrs Hartley)  
[year2-3class@greenlane.durham.sch.uk](mailto:year2-3class@greenlane.durham.sch.uk) (Mrs Windle & Mrs Stannard)  
[year3class@greenlane.durham.sch.uk](mailto:year3class@greenlane.durham.sch.uk) (Mrs Chapman & Mrs Scarre)  
[year4-5class@greenlane.durham.sch.uk](mailto:year4-5class@greenlane.durham.sch.uk) (Miss Cone)  
[year5-6cclass@greenlane.durham.sch.uk](mailto:year5-6cclass@greenlane.durham.sch.uk) (Miss Court)  
[year5-6lclass@greenlane.durham.sch.uk](mailto:year5-6lclass@greenlane.durham.sch.uk) (Mr Lees)

If you want to get in touch with myself or Miss Hall you can email us via the school address on:

[greenlane@durhamlearning.net](mailto:greenlane@durhamlearning.net)

When all this is over I think we should have an extra special celebration in school – perhaps with barbecues and tombola (Mrs Long, Mrs Waldock and Mrs Maughan will help with that I'm sure!). As the Queen said – *We will meet again!* We don't know when the lockdown will be eased and watch the 5pm briefings from Downing Street with the same interest as you do, but rest assured we will tell you as soon as we hear any news.

I do so hope that this will be over soon and that we can all return safe and well to Green Lane – ready to learn and laugh together again...

As always, the best of wishes to you and your family. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Kind regards,



Mr R Goffee  
Headteacher