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Gracefield news

WELCOME TO THE NEW STYLE SUMMER TERM!

Welcome to our very first remote summer term and to one of our new, special Gracefield News, which will be emailed home during the lock down. We've all had to adapt to new ways of working, and I want to take the opportunity to say what an amazing job you are doing supporting your child's wellbeing and learning during this time.

It has definitely been a strange and challenging time for everyone and it is ok if you and your child feel wobbly and worried at the moment. We are here for you every step of the way as we figure this all out together. Remember, if you have any concerns about helping your child learn or you need any other support from the school, please let us know by messaging on Class Dojo or telephoning/emailing school.

We miss the children very much, but we must follow the government's guidance to keep everyone in our community safe. For now we are carrying on with home learning while teaching the children of key workers in school, but just because we are not all in the same building, it doesn't mean we can't have some fun together! The children will have lots of activities they can get stuck into over the summer term – so keep a close eye on Class Dojo to stay up to date with what's happening. We also love seeing the children's fantastic learning at home – please keep sending their work in and any pictures as we would like to showcase it in the Newsletter. I look forward to seeing all your stories and work over the coming weeks and meeting up with those who can on our Zoom Class Calls.

Let's get cracking with our summer term!

**Mr Gunter
Headteacher**

TRANSFORMATION

The Gracefield caterpillars have all now hatched from their chrysalides and transformed into beautiful butterflies. The children in school released them during the first days of sunny weather.



A MESSAGE OF HOPE FROM MRS MORGAN

Dear Gracefield parents and pupils,
I wanted to send a greeting to you from my home where I am in lock down with my mum. Some of you may remember seeing Mrs Morris when she came into school for our Gracefield remembrance service back in November. My mum is 85 years old and has dementia, therefore she is called a 'vulnerable adult' and cannot go outside for 12 weeks. I have to isolate myself with her in order to keep her safe. It is hard to stay indoors and keep busy but I'm sure that you are enjoying lovely activities with your family, as well as completing tasks for your teachers too!

My little nephews and nieces have been sending me pictures of rainbows and putting them up in the windows of their houses, both in Swindon and Manchester. Children throughout the United Kingdom have been doing the same.

The rainbow to me is a sign of hope and God's love. I was thrilled to see that children who have been going to Gracefield over the past few weeks have also been creative and have been drawing and painting rainbows themselves. I have a giant rainbow in the front of my house and it helps me to keep hoping and praying that we can all stay safe at the moment. Please take great care of yourselves and keep washing your hands. I'm thinking of you all daily and hoping that I will see you all again soon.

God bless.
Mrs Morgan, Principal



HINTS AND TIPS TO GET YOU STARTED

We're realistic about what pupils will be able to do during this period, and we want you to be too.

You are not expected to become teachers and your children aren't expected to learn as they do in school. Simply providing them with some structure at home will help them to adapt.

The following tips are designed to help you create a positive learning environment at home. See what works best for your household.

- **Create and stick to a routine** if you can. This is what children are used to. For example, eat breakfast at the same time and make sure they're dressed before starting the 'school' day – avoid staying in pyjamas!
- **Involve your children in setting the timetable** where possible. It's a great opportunity for them to manage their own time better and it'll give them ownership.
- **Check in with your children and try to keep to the timetable, but be flexible.** If a task/activity is going well or they want more time, let it extend where possible.
- If you have more than one child at home, **consider combining their timetables.** For example, they might exercise and do maths together – see what works for your household!
- **Designate a working space if possible,** and at the end of the day have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over.
- **Stick the timetable up on the wall** so everyone knows what they should be doing when, and tick activities off throughout the day.
- **Take stock at the end of each week.** What's working and what isn't? Ask your children, involve them too.
- **Distinguish between weekdays and weekends,** to separate school life and home life.
- **Give them chores** to do so they feel more responsible about the daily routine at home.
- Ask them to **help you cook** and bake.
- Accept that **they'll probably watch more TV/spend time on their phone** – that's ok but you might want to set/agree some screen time limits and it is important to be mindful of safeguarding.

Please don't worry about your children getting behind with learning. Everyone's in the same boat, and when things get back to normal we'll make sure we get everyone back on track.

WHO'S ZOOMING WHO

We really enjoyed seeing all the children who were able to make their zoom sessions today. It was great to connect with you all! Today we caught up with Reception, Years 1, 2 and 3.



PLAYGROUND FUN AND GAMES

The children in school have been getting to grips with some new playground equipment which we have provided during the lock down. We were very impressed with how quickly they took to the stilts!



ZOOM RULES

Be on time



Zoom from kitchen or living room



Turn on video



No chat while teacher is talking



Where possible Adult needs to be present



Be respectful



Be prepared



Staff will be available on Class Dojo during normal school hours of 8.40am - 3.30pm. For urgent enquiries outside these hours please either email the school, or message Mr Gunter on Class Dojo.