

Churchside Federation

Gooderstone C of E Primary Academy
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Mundford C of E Primary Academy
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Head of School: Miss L. Brown

Website: www.churchsidefederation.norfolk.sch.uk
Executive Headteacher: Mrs S Godbold

Sunday 3rd January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a weekend it has been. Since writing to you a few days ago the news has gone wild with calls for Primaries to be shut. The Government have been resolute in their standing that it is safe for school children to return tomorrow and have asked primaries to open their doors. Many schools have had to close due to staffing levels BUT at both Gooderstone and Mundford we have an amazing team of dedicated staff members who will go over and above for the children of the Federation.

I know many of you are anxious about the return to school and I fully acknowledge the current situation is worrying. Since March, we have (and will continue to) followed the guidance throughout the pandemic to minimise risk and keep the children as safe as we possibly can. We will continue to follow this guidance and keep all the good practise we have established going along. Staggered starts, finishes and bubbles will remain in place. Masks for drop off and pick-ups are to be worn by adults. Only one adult is permitted to enter the playground to ensure as few people gather as possible. We ask children are dropped off and collected swiftly at the start and end of the day. Currently we are not suggesting children wear masks in schools but this will continue to be reviewed as advice is given.

We will be ensuring the school is well ventilated so please ensure your children are wearing extra layers (vests) under their school uniform. We will also be using the outdoors a lot so all children will need warm coats, hats and scarfs and wellington boots for outside.

I do not underestimate that this is a very difficult decision for you to make and I fully respect the decisions you choose to make as a parent and hope this information supports you to make an informed choice.

Many of you have asked the following question:

Can I choose to keep my child at home and ask the school to provide home learning?

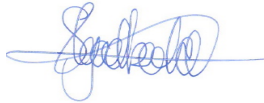
Guidance states that the short answer is 'no' unless your child has been identified by a doctor or clinician as extremely clinically vulnerable, in which case we will talk to you about a package which is right for your child.

Home learning is only provided when children are not able to attend school due to having to self-isolate whilst waiting for test results or having to complete a period of self-isolation. There is also an expectation that learning activities set are completed during this time, unless your child is not well enough to do so.

This is an ever-changing landscape and what is fact today can very easily change tomorrow. We are navigating our way through this as best we can, so we thank you for your patience and understanding. I will continue to be in close contact over the next few days to keep you up to date and informed with the latest guidance.

We look forward to welcoming you back tomorrow,

Many thanks

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Godbold', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Godbold
Executive Head.