



## Gedney Drove End Primary School and Holbeach St Marks Primary School

12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

### Dates for your diary

12<sup>th</sup> Feb End of Term 3

22<sup>nd</sup> Feb Start of Term 4

31<sup>st</sup> March End of Term 4

Dear Parents,

I want to thank parents for the incredible support you have shown us as a school. I am continually in awe of you as parents: you have done such an amazing job supporting your children's remote learning this term. We want to remind you that we are always here for you. Our dedicated help@ email address is monitored daily so please reach out to us if you need anything.

We are expecting an announcement on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, detailing when children will return to school. As soon as we have this, we will start the arrangements for their return. We will send you details as soon as we are able to.

The new term for both remote learning and for children with a place in school, will start again on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. We hope you all have a restful half term holiday.

### Inappropriate Content - Online Advice for Parents

Please find below some information we have received from the county safeguarding team that might be useful.

Over the last 12 months, we have seen an increase in the number of schools reporting that students, while at home, have accessed content which is not always appropriate, some of which has been quite scary or upsetting. While there is no perfect way to eliminate this risk, we feel that there are things parents and carers can do to support their children online, reduce the risk or manage it after the fact. Here are some of the practical steps parents and carers can follow:

- Contact their Internet Service Provider (ISP): Companies that provide broadband such as BT, Sky and Virgin, offer free protection for parents and carers. They can filter your internet connection directly, without having to install anything. Guide on how to use this can be found here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/broadband-mobile/>
- YouTube is a fantastic resource, especially when homeschooling, but not all the content is appropriate for children and not all YouTube channels are made for young audiences. YouTube has an app just for children – YouTube Kids – but many people don't realise that the main YouTube app has a restricted mode. Check out more about how it works here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-app/>
- Games consoles have features that can limit what games they can play based on the age ratings and can even turn off certain features to allow gaming to be a little safer. To learn more about these features visit <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/>
- Games are also rated based on the content, not how difficult they are. 18 rated games can have very graphic violence, adult language and themes, sexual content and horror elements. Learn a bit more about appropriate games by visiting <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming-whats-appropriate-for-your-child/> or visit this site for more about game ratings <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/pegi-games-ratings-explained>

It's important to remember that no filters or controls are 100% effective so make sure your child knows that they can, and should, talk to someone if they see or hear anything upsetting online so we can offer them some reassurance. This information from Thinkuknow might be useful <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Im-worried-my-primary-aged-child-might-see-something-inappropriate-online>

### **Winter Footwear**

A reminder to parents with children in school. If your child comes to school in their wellington boots, please send another pair of shoes to change into.

### **Free School Meals Holiday Voucher**

Every parent with children entitled to Free School Meals should have received an email from either Wonde or School Vouchers regarding a supermarket voucher to cover February half term. If you haven't received one please contact the office.

### **School Transport**

If your child is starting primary school or transferring to secondary school in September 2021 they may be eligible for school transport. If you think your child is eligible please apply for transport as soon as you have your offer of a school place. Applications can be made online at the website below or a telephone application can be made by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01522 782020.

For more information about the home to school transport policy and online applications please go to <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-college-transport>. Queries can be emailed to [schooltransportapplications@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransportapplications@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

### **Stars of the week**

Well done to the following children for their amazing achievements this week:

#### **Gedney Drove End**

**Finland** – Poppy for her outstanding effort with her online learning and her contributions in our live sessions. Alice & April for engaging in all of the online learning and great rhythm and singing skills in their music lessons! Abbie for joining every story time and having some fabulous comments about the stories. India for her fabulous work in maths and English. Stanley for fantastic effort and behaviour in Mercury class

**Sweden** – Emily for super effort particularly in maths. Isla for her super effort learning at home.

**Norway** – Rebekka for growing in confidence when sharing her ideas. Evie for her excellent contributions in the live sessions. Kyle for his excellent uplevelling of vocabulary in English.

#### **Holbeach St Marks**

**Cuba** – Tomasz for working hard on his maths work at home.

**Barbados** – Henry & Oliver for always trying their hardest in home learning and having a positive attitude.

**St Lucia** – Thomas M, Chase, Isla, Lily and Alfie T for their incredible hard work with their home learning.

### **South Holland Council Essential Contacts**

Please find below a list of important contact numbers we have been asked to pass on from the council.

- Age UK Lincoln and South Lincolnshire - 0345 556 4144
- Information and advice for older people and telephone befriending
- Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire - 0800 144 88 48
- Advice on debt, benefits, housing, employment
- Food Bank Referral Line - 01775 828358
- Lincolnshire Carers Service - 01522 782224
- Information, advice, support, activities and learning for people who look after a relative or friend who due to ill health, physical or mental illness, disability, frailty, or addiction cannot manage without their support
- Lincolnshire Coronavirus Helpline - 01522 782189
- Volunteer help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, dog walking or a friendly chat for those in self-isolation or who are extremely clinically vulnerable
- Lincolnshire Credit Union - 01522 873550



## Gedney Drove End Primary School and Holbeach St Marks Primary School

- Affordable loans provider
- **Lincolnshire Mental Health Helpline - 0800 001 4331**
- 24/7 support for anyone feeling low, worried or lonely
- **Lincolnshire Rural Support Network - 0800 138 1710**
- Volunteer's available 8am to 8pm every day for practical and pastoral support for farming and rural people
- **National Debt Line - 0808 808 4000**
- **National Energy Action - 0800 304 7159**
- Support with utility bills including reducing costs, debt management and some funding
- **One You Lincolnshire - 01522 705 162**
- Free smoking cessation support, healthy lifestyle support including weight loss, physical activity and alcohol reduction
- **Samaritans - 116 123**
- 24/7 confidential support line
- **Silverline - 0800 470 8090**
- 24/7 helpline providing information, friendship and advice for older people
- **South Holland District Council - 01775 761161**
- Housing, council tax, test and trace support payment scheme, waste collections, antisocial behaviour
- **St Barnabas's Bereavement Helpline - 0300 303 1897**
- **Thrive South Holland - 07584 341268**
- One to one employment and training support
- **Tonic Health Befriending and Mental Health Support - 07579 033347**
- Local charity offering support with befriending, mental health, advocacy and support for carers
- **We Are With You - 01775 666 638**
- Drug and Alcohol use support service
- **Wellbeing Lincs - 01522 782140**
- Help with accessing independence aids and equipment, telecare, benefits and other support

Many Thanks  
Karyn Wiles

