



HAPPY NEW YEAR

We know that this is a challenging time for many of you but hope that you have managed to enjoy some time together as a family over the holiday.

STAYING SAFE AT SCHOOL

We plan to open school as planned tomorrow, Tuesday 5th January. We've worked through our risk assessment, finding ways to ensure that safety is maximised. Additional guidance and training on distancing and hand washing will be provided to pupils in the morning, with the aim being to ensure that this is as effective as possible. Some of the shared facilities at school will be out of use for a little while too, so that safety is prioritised. We ask that you too help by following the guidance below:

- Please ensure that you maintain social distancing from others when dropping off and collecting your child from our school.
- Please follow any guidance issued by us to help with this e.g. only one adult per family should enter school grounds to drop off or collect.
- For those travelling by car we ask that you wait in your vehicle until drop off or collection time. This will reduce the amount of people assembling in and around the school grounds and will help with social distancing.
- We recommend that all parents entering the school premises wear a face covering in addition to social distancing. This an extra safeguard to reduce the transmission of the virus. Please note that this does not apply to those who are medically exempt.

PREPARING FOR HOME LEARNING

With potential national school closure in the news, we are preparing contingency arrangements should home learning become necessary. We have prepared an online platform (Microsoft Teams) for all learners. A computer will be required to enable access to this resource. So that we can plan appropriately, please email the school office if, in the event of school closure, you know that you would need a laptop for your child(ren).

KS2 OUTDOOR PE LESSONS

To help make our school environment as safe as possible, pupils taught at Gunnerside will be doing PE outdoors this half term. We will check the weather forecast each week, varying our PE afternoons accordingly. For this reason, please send in a PE kit and leave it in school until half term. Please make sure that the kit includes tracksuit bottoms and a hoody, fleece, or jumper so that your child is warm enough.

WINTER WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS

With snow forecast overnight, please note our arrangements for closure in exceptional circumstances due to adverse weather:

Information will be communicated to parents via the school website and the text messaging service. The schools' web-site will give full details of any closure and other arrangements such as changes to transport. Information will be posted up around 7.30am (and no later than 7.45am as far as is possible) and updated throughout the morning with any additional information. All entries on the web-site will show the date and time of the update.

A NEW READING SCHEME

We are pleased to let you know that we are launching a new reading scheme tomorrow. We have replaced the majority of our existing books with brand new material from Collins. The books are arranged in colour book bands that ensure the appropriate level of challenge, extending from nursery all the way through to Year 6. All pupils will be invited to choose a book from the new collection tomorrow. They will be supported with their reading in school and will bring the book home each day too. We ask that you try to read with your child at least four times per week.





There are some excellent books to look forward to reading and we really hope that your child enjoys the new scheme. Please continue to record your child's progress in the back of the purple home school book. There are some differences between our older reading material and the new book bands, so please don't worry if the level of your child's book has changed. We continue to encourage all pupils to borrow books from the school library and recommend that these can be read and enjoyed alongside the book provided through the reading scheme.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact school.

With best wishes,

G. Stainsby

Gordon Stainsby
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Jan

Tues 5th School re-opens

Feb

Fri 12th School closes for half term

Mon 22nd School re-opens

