



Gorsemoor Primary School

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Dear Parents / Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back, particularly any families new to Gorsemoor. I hope this will be the start of a long and happy relationship with the school. I'd also like to thank everyone who has made me feel so welcome in my first few days and I look forward to meeting more of you as the term goes on.

I understand that you have had changes in leadership over recent years. However, as your new permanent Headteacher, I am keen to build quickly on the successes of the school and to bring my experience to work with the current staff to improve it even further. For those of you who are not new to Gorsemoor, this will mean that you may see and experience some more changes over time. I want to reassure you that these will be careful decisions we make to ensure your children continue to benefit from the highest quality teaching, learning, assessment and safeguarding provision expected of schools nationally.

A priority is ensuring that your time in school is purposeful and provides you with the information you need about your child's education. I apologise for the short notice in postponing the Consultation Evenings originally planned for the week beginning Monday 18 September as they were organised prior to me starting in this role. As an alternative, I would like to arrange two separate occasions for you to come into school this term. The first will be an informal Open Evening to be held on **Monday 16 October**. This will be a great opportunity for your children to show you around their classroom and to share their work. Teachers will be available for a quick chat should you wish, however please be assured that you are welcome to speak to them at any time. Should you ever have any concerns please contact the school office to make an appointment to meet with them or for them to phone you back.

The second occasion will be more formal Consultation Evenings held towards the end of term. These will be for you to meet with the class teacher to discuss your child's learning, progress and overall achievement during the Autumn Term. The class teacher will also support you with how to help your child with their next steps in learning ready for the Spring Term. We will notify you of these dates as soon as possible.

It has become apparent that we are currently no longer able to offer a Breakfast Club provision, or supervise pupils before 8.45am, using staff from within the school. I appreciate that this is an additional provision that has been in place and used by many of you for some time so I have liaised with Farlea Childcare who have assured me that they will be able to accommodate you should you wish to use their service. I have attached a letter from them for your convenience. The last day that the school Breakfast Club will be available and that pupils will be able to be dropped at school early will be **Friday 15 September**. If you need childcare before 8.45am, please ensure you have made alternative arrangements by this date.



Children can arrive at school from 8.45am through the gates, not through the main entrance, and school starts at 8.55am when the registers are taken. The school gates will be shut promptly at 9.00am as we want all the children in school ready to start their learning. After this time, the only access into school will be through the front entrance. Members of staff are now standing at the gates to ensure the children who have been dropped off stay safely on the premises. They will also be available to take brief messages from you. If you wish your child to walk to and/or from school on their own, please notify the school office in writing.

Similarly, can I politely remind you that school finishes at 3.30pm for all pupils. Unless your child is due to attend an after-school club or they are booked into Farlea Childcare then please ensure they are collected at this time. We appreciate that occasionally there may be unforeseen circumstances which mean you will be slightly late in picking them up. If so, please contact the school office as early as possible to inform us of this, as arrangements will need to be put in place for them to be safely supervised by their teacher for the short period of time until you arrive. If you have arranged for someone else to pick up your child it is important that you let your child's class teacher know as we won't let your child go home with anyone different unless you have notified us of this. If we haven't been informed, we will need to make contact with you for your agreement before we let them take your child.

I have been holding meetings with school staff and these will continue over the next few weeks. I am excited to start working with such a committed team in partnership with yourselves. You will continue to receive school newsletters, celebrating all that we do, and I will also keep you updated about the school improvement work that we and the governors will continue to carry out at Gorsemoor to ensure your children can confidently say we are 'safe and happy as we learn'.

We are here to help so do feel comfortable to ask any member of staff for help or advice. If you ever have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at headteacher@gorsemoor.staffordshire.gov.uk or by contacting the school office to speak to me by telephone or to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Evans
Headteacher

