



Gorsemoor Primary School

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Dear Parent/Guardian

As an established teacher at Gorsemoor I know that we, as a school, have always considered the importance of regular parental communication. We strive to be at the forefront of technology and as you know, we have recently moved to emailing letters to you. In light of this, I felt that the way we engage with parents could be further improved. Therefore, in the Autumn term, I conducted a trial of an app called ClassDojo.

A number of teachers in school, already use ClassDojo as a reward system and this will now be used across the whole school. The children are able to earn 'monster points' for various positive attributes such as behaviour, attitude and effort. Along with gaining monster points, there is also a function to take away points for inappropriate behaviour.

ClassDojo allows parents to download a free, easy to use app or access their website. When allocated with a login, parents will be able to see updates on their own child's achievements in class. In addition, they will be able to see messages on the class and school story board and there is a function for parents to message teachers directly.

The trial in Year 1 and Year 6 has been very successful and we have had very positive responses from parents.

As a parent you can expect to see **weekly** photos and updates on the class story board which many parents have found gives them more of an insight to what their children are doing at school. You will also be able to see how many monster points your child is earning throughout the week and what they have done to achieve these. Likewise you will be able to see if your child has lost monster points and the reasons why. Parents involved in the trial, used this as a discussion point with their child and found it improved the link between home and school.

The whole school story board will be updated by every class teacher. This will be used as a blog to celebrate our whole school achievements and as a tool to send whole school messages and reminders. The school text messaging service will work alongside this and it will not replace our school website which is our window to the World.

The direct messaging function proved to be very useful for the parents and teachers during the trial. We understand the value of this function and see it as an important part of our project to improve



communication between home and school. However, it is important that both teachers and parents understand the guidelines for this function.

Teachers will endeavour to answer any messages as soon as possible but we ask you to appreciate that this will not be immediately. Messages sent after 5pm **may** be answered but this is to the teachers' discretion as this is out of school hours and we have to respect the work life balance of teachers who have their own family commitments. This includes messages sent at the weekend and during school holidays. This will differ from teacher to teacher as some **may** wish to reply during these out of hours times but it is **not** an expectation that has been placed upon them. All teachers will endeavour to respond to messages within 48 hours unless there are other extenuating circumstances such as illness.

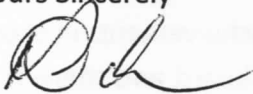
We know that you will understand the rationale but we really want to improve home-school communication in this age of new technology.

Attached to this letter is your individual parental log on. Also provided on the sheet is a separate log on for your child – this allows your child to not only monitor their progress but to customise their monster too!

Although we will continue to send out letters about important events, sadly if you do not log in to ClassDojo you will miss out on class updates.

Thank you for your continuing support

Yours Sincerely



Mrs N Palmer

