



St Godric's RC VA Primary School

Carrhouse Drive,
Framwellgate Moor,
Durham,
DH1 5LZ

Tel No: 0191 3847452 Fax No: 0191 3864995

E-mail: durhamstgodric@durhamlearning.net

School Website: www.st-godricsrc.durham.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs C Craig

22nd June 2020

Dear Parents,

We hope that you and your families are safe and well as we continue to live and work through this pandemic. We were delighted to be able to welcome back pupils from Year 6, Year 1 and Reception Class last week. However, we were sad not to be able to welcome back all of our children.

As a school, we are aware of how many families are having to teach their children in their homes. Many families inform us that they are enjoying this experience whilst others are struggling. It certainly can be challenging for parents who are trying to work from home whilst supervising their children who are completing their own learning activities.

Since the start of lockdown we have promised that school will continue to teach the children from where they finished their learning in March. This is still the case. In order to do this, the staff and Governing Body have been thinking about how they can make adjustments to ensure that the basic skills of reading, writing, mathematics and RE are given the maximum amount of time to enable children to be taught their Summer Term curriculum and begin their new academic year programme. Staffing has also been taken into consideration. The following adjustments have been made to ensure that all of the children who return to school are able to achieve this:

- School doors will open at 8.45am – children to come straight in, no lining up on the yard. This will enable pupils to start their learning promptly.
- Collective worship will take place on a Monday morning and Friday afternoon to ensure that essential learning time in the morning is fully utilised.
- A number of teaching staff hours have been increased to enable teachers to focus more closely upon specific groups.
- Additional full time teacher employed to support the teaching and learning across the school.
- Timetable used for the teaching of reading, writing and mathematics. Foundation subjects such as history and geography taught through the use of literature in KS2
- Additional mathematics and English lessons scheduled in across the day.
- Shorter lunch time for pupils in Year 1 and Year 2. Lunch time will finish at 1pm rather than 1.15pm.
- Teaching assistants deployed in each class to support the teaching and learning.
- Activities will be undertaken in the initial stages to reignite the love of learning in those children who have struggled in the current situation.

We know that some children might find the pace of work in September difficult to respond and adapt to and we will take these needs into consideration too. It is hoped that the above measures will help to ease some of your concerns and anxieties. We are all very excited at the thought of us being able to open school to all our children and support them once again with their learning. Hopefully this will be in September, until then we continue to keep all of the children in our thoughts and prayers.

Academy update

The Governing Body would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that the DfE have agreed in principle for our school to become an academy. We have therefore been given an Academy Order at this stage.

Thank you for your support and cooperation during this difficult time for us all.

Yours sincerely,

CM Craig M Stephenson

Mrs CM Craig and Mr M Stephenson
Headteacher and Chair of Governors