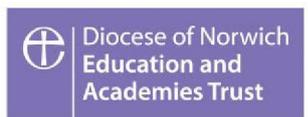




Ditchingham Church of England Primary Academy  
Gillingham St Michael's Church of England Primary Academy

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7/9/20

Dear Barn Owl families

Welcome back to school. How exciting it is to be back after so long! We've got lots of important learning to get on with and over the next few weeks we will begin to catch up with ourselves. More importantly we must also make sure we are safe and happy in school. This first week will focus on routines to keep us safe and opportunities to think about how we feel in school and how we can look after each other.

A big focus will continue to be on Reading. This is probably the most important skill to master in school and we will be spending a lot of time reading, thinking about words and meanings, understanding stories and texts and most importantly, reading for pleasure. All children should read every day at home for 15 to 20 minutes and fill in their Reading Record. Like last year we will carry on checking reading records weekly and there will be individual and class rewards. Reading books will start coming home towards the end of this week.

Our main topics this half term are Ancient Egypt and Forces.

PE will take place on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. On these days children should come to school in their **school** PE kit. As the weather gets a bit colder, pupils should bring track suits and other warm clothing as well.

A spare pair of outside shoes need to be in school all the time.

Children should only have their reading book, reading record and their packed lunch in their school bag.

Just a reminder that the kitchen can only provide hot meals now – either the meal choice from the menu or a jacket potato (with cheese OR beans OR tuna).

Finally, we will be teaching all children to access 'Google Classroom'. Once set up, we will be setting some **home learning tasks** to make sure everything is working and everyone can participate. I will let you know when these home learning tasks are going to start.

I look forward to meeting you as the term and year gets going. We can have brief discussions at the end of the school day but if we need a longer discussion, this will need to be by phone. Please do let me know if you need to discuss anything.

With very best wishes

Mr James