

GIG MILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Together we care, together we succeed



17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,
Every school year is different, and this year has been a challenge for many reasons.

We achieved so much in this school year and here are just a few of our successes:
This year we have continued to celebrate school successes together with weekly achiever's assemblies, proud clouds in the classrooms, and regular newsletters. Every day there are examples of children displaying school values in practice, adding to the learning experience and supporting our school ethos. It was excellent to have this as the start of our OFSTED report:

'Together we care, together we succeed' is more than just a motto at Gig Mill Primary. It drives exciting lessons and interactions that enrich the lives of pupils.'

"Leaders, staff and pupils work together to aim for a community where pupils matter and thrive."

As a school we celebrated achieving the school Music Mark with a special musical assembly, with the choir singing "Be the Change", and celebrating musical successes of our children at Gig Mill.

As part of the West Midlands inter- schools Maths competition both our Year 3/4 team and our Year 5/6 team did really well; and qualified for the finals.

In the Dudley inter-school gymnastic competition, both our Year 5 and our Year 6 teams came away with certificates and medals as overall winners. We have successfully achieved the Schools Games Mark for PE in 2020.

A number of Gig Mill children have been celebrated for their community fundraising throughout the year – in the local and national press:

Supporting local food bank collections – Lettie and George

Supporting NHS workers during COVID 19 - Oliver (poster competition), Molly and Isla meeting national 2.6 challenge for foodbank charity, and Omari (creating Clap for carers badges and raising £617).

Our children and their achievements continue to demonstrate our school motto in action, and make us proud of their personal growth as individuals, their learning at Gig Mill and how they demonstrate what it means to be part of the Gig Mill Family.

As well as individual daily successes of the children; such as learning to tie their shoelaces for the first time, learning to take turns, learning tricky words, learning to read a new book, learning to manipulate numbers or making a new friend; there are other successes we share as a team – creating new library resources, creating new classroom spaces in Reception 'cupboards', developing the KS2 library, creating new outdoor play spaces with gazebos in both KS1 and KS2 playgrounds and lots more!

Parents also share in our successes – here are just a few of the messages received during lockdown:

Thank you for the video message, the children were really happy to see the staff and in particular their teachers.

Thanks for the hard work ... this week's is very good and is really helping us to help them without our constant engagement.

You are all amazing, we miss you all so much, and can't wait to see you all again. We wanted you to know that you are our "HEROES" at Gig Mill school just as much as the NHS and other keyworkers.

Headteacher: Mrs A Hannaway
The Broadway, Norton, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 3HL (For SAT NAV use DY8 3HP)
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As Headteacher, I am incredibly proud of our achievements this year and that OFSTED recognised the continued journey of improvement we have been on for the past 6 years and we received two outstanding judgements, but most of all I am proud of our children, and how they are supported and challenged by our talented and resilient staff team.

A huge thank you to those staff who have been by my side for the past 17 weeks – 84 days ensuring the school has been open for key workers, and more recently Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

Thank you everyone, but a special mention to Mrs Powell, Mrs Suchomski, Mr Stokes and Mr Green.

As we look forward to September, there will be many changes, but I know that the team at Gig Mill will rise to the challenges ahead, just as they have during the challenges of the past few months.

You will all have received information about next academic year, and your child's class-teachers. **Please look out on the website for new information, we will be working over the summer to complete new risk assessments (following guidance in August), prepare classrooms and the rest of school to meet new guidelines**, rather than those currently in place.

Current guidance is that minimal items are brought into school, and this is the guidance we will start with in September. **The only items children will bring in will be a lunchbox, a water bottle, and a coat. Due to reduced storage space, and minimising movement around school, please do not send in PE kits, school bags or pencil cases.**

Arrangements that have worked successfully since June will continue as outlined in new class letters: Reception and Year 1 will continue to come in via the Broadway entrance, and use a one-way system on the school field

Years 2 and 3 will come into school Broadway entrance via the main door

Years 4, 5 and 6 will come into school via the Heath Farm entrance



We look forward to seeing all the children return in September and wish you all a relaxing summer holiday.

Kind regards,
All the staff at Gig Mill

Uniform

Just a reminder that uniform is available online from:-
<https://www.countyschoolwear.co.uk/buy-online/badged/gig-mill-primary-school-uniform>

Please can you ensure that sensible black school shoes are worn in September and no trainers. Thank you.

Autumn Term Dates 2020

INSET Days – Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd September
Term starts – Thursday 3rd September
Half-Term – Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October
Term ends – Friday 18th December

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