

# Great Ponton Church of England Primary School



*Offering hope, building confidence, developing resilience*

**Headteacher: Mr Keith Leader, B.A (Hons)**

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Tuesday 5th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome 2023-2024

I am delighted to write to you and extend a very warm welcome to the new academic year. I firmly believe that I have never worked with such a committed group of staff, aided by such a supportive group of parents, and we are immensely proud of the children who ultimately leave us as well-rounded individuals empowered to make positive contributions to society.

Obviously, the academic achievements of the children are a big contributory factor in this, but I believe it is the many other aspects of life at Great Ponton that makes the difference. There are a great many opportunities beyond the normal curriculum which the children are/will be encouraged to embrace and these serve to develop additional skills and experiences. The respectful way in which the children conduct themselves and their smart appearance help create opportunities and also embed desirable attributes. Our ambition for the children and striving for excellence as part of our desire to aim high helps the children make the most of their education and the opportunities available to them.

These aspects are summarised by our six values, namely:

**RESPECT, FRIENDSHIP, WISDOM, PEACE, HOPE and DIGNITY.**

I would very much hope that we can count on your support as your child moves through their education with us. You may not fully appreciate the big difference this can make to your child's education and it can be through some simple steps. I would like to take this opportunity to make a few simple requests of you, which many of you already do.

1. Learning can be really impeded by children not having the correct equipment or books and so it is a big help if you can establish a routine of your child carefully checking what they need and packing their bag the night before.
2. Learning at home is a vital part of consolidating what has been covered in lessons. Facilitating learning at home by ensuring there is time and space for it to be done un-rushed is really helpful.
3. Asking to look at homework or talking to your child about what they have done can have a powerful effect. Talking about learning really helps deepen thinking and also helps the learning to stay in the memory for longer. Try asking them to explain it to you – we can only explain what we understand!
4. Enjoy reading together! Find quiet places to read, read in different places, talk about the story and focus on the enjoyment of reading.

**FRIENDSHIP RESPECT WISDOM PEACE HOPE DIGNITY**

As regards the timing of the school day, the gates will open at 8.30am and the children are allowed to come straight into school. The gates will be locked at 8.40.

The detailed timings are as follows:

8.40am Registration

8.45am - 9.00am Collective Worship

9.00am - 09.45am Phonics/spelling/guided reading

09.45am - 10.45am English

10.45am – 11.00am Break

11.00am - 12.00pm Maths

12.00pm - 12.50pm Lunch

12.50pm - 1.00pm Registration/number work/times tables

1.00pm - 2.00pm Foundation subjects

2.00pm – 3.00pm Foundation subjects

(foundation subjects- PE, RE, history, geography, PSHE, Art, DT, science)

3.00pm – 3.20pm Reading for pleasure

And finally, I would politely request that you contact your child's class teacher in the first instance if you have a concern. Please do draw things to our attention and give us the opportunity to address your concerns – don't feel that you need to wait until a parent's evening or survey.

Thank you for your continued support in our best endeavours for your child's education. You have my assurance that I will lead by example for my colleagues and students alike and that we will strive to live by our values every day.

Yours sincerely

Mr K Leader