



Kings Langley School

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Dear Parent/Carer

As you will know schools are receiving information from Central Government at the same time as parents. This morning we have received information that children should stay at home where possible. We have also received details regarding the definition of key workers and will continue to support our community in any way we can during these uncertain times. As a school we have not waited to provide additional support for those families in need. Yesterday the school posted out hundreds of food vouchers to those families who are eligible for free school meals and I hope to update these families shortly once the Government have given schools the additional support needed for these families. We are also providing a free breakfast and lunch each day for those families of students who need to attend school because they are defined as key workers or from vulnerable categories.

I want to share with you a draft plan as we see it at the moment in four stages:

Stage One:

In this phase, we will be settling into a pattern of delivery using various online systems, predominantly Show My Homework, where staff will provide work and signpost to different platforms. Staff are also carefully selecting talks and lessons that can be streamed from links sent on Show My Homework. All students will follow the normal timetable throughout the day so that parents/carers can easily follow what they are doing and support staff in maintaining good routines and work ethic. Please ensure your child follows the Government advice and take regular exercise throughout this time.

In Stage One, students of key workers as listed this morning on the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/Government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision> will be able to access education at school should they wish. It is important that you register your child for this provision so that we can ensure we have our usual attendance protocols in place for safeguarding purposes. Ruth Jennings, Deputy Headteacher is coordinating this and if you need support during this time in providing childcare and education please email her using - Jenningsr@kls.herts.sch.uk. Thank you to those who have responded so far.

Stage Two:

This will be the Easter holidays, where some schools may be open to children of key workers. We are waiting for further clarification of exactly how this will operate. However, we will try to provide what we can to support the national and local efforts to suppress and tackle this virus, by providing an educational experience for those families of key workers and those children from vulnerable backgrounds. We will continue to support families who are eligible for free school meals and continue to provide food where and when we can during this time to those children and staff in school.



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Stage Three:

This will be immediately following the Easter holidays, lasting for possibly 6 weeks or more. We will evaluate how successful Stage One Virtual Learning has been over the holiday period and will either continue with the same routines, or adjust in light of experiences of what works best. Parents must remember staff are also becoming ill or need to self-isolate and might not have the necessary equipment within the home to provide an enhanced experience. It needs to be recognised that working remotely is fine in the short term, but has challenges over the longer term with students being out of step with the learning due to illness, and potential fatigue from operating this way over a sustained period. We will try to continue to provide education for those from key worker families or the vulnerable as per the Government definitions but will review this during the Easter break.

Stage Four:

This will be the recovery stage where we move back into a return to school and the date of this is unknown. We need to consider the possibility of some phased return, and establishing a good starting point for curriculum delivery. We will also be looking closely at the school calendar and key events, to see how these might need re-scheduling to prioritise the most important.

To conclude, there is plenty of work to be done but I feel that Kings Langley School and its community are well placed to cope with the challenges that lie ahead. I hope to be able to continue to communicate when news is received and will be posting ideas on Twitter to keep parents with pastoral and educational needs.

https://twitter.com/KL_School_UK

The school site will be open and some staff may be working from school rather than home, if this is their preference. We will be taking steps to minimise social contact for their own well-being and that of their families.

I would like to end by reiterating how proud I am of the way our students are conducting themselves and I hope the maturity they have displayed regarding the situation will continue during their education at home. I would ask that you encourage them to remain engaged and focused on their studies through the online learning platform Show My Homework, but also take time to spend time with them doing things that are creative and please follow the Government advice around exercise.

One of the saddest moments of my career this week was following the news of cancelled exams and the uncertainty this has created. I am determined once this is all over we will be able to provide some kind of celebration for both Year 11 and 13 who have worked tirelessly.

Kind regards



Mr D Fisher
Headteacher