



'Partnership in Learning'

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19th March 2020

Dear Parents,

COVID-19 Update 2

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter to you today. As you will have no doubt seen, the UK Government has taken the unprecedented step of suspending all educational provision for children in England from the end of the day tomorrow (Friday 20th March 2020). This is a historic step.

From Monday, the role of schools and their staff is one that has never been seen before. Our sole function will be to provide care services for the children of Key Workers and those from identified vulnerable groups (more information below).

I am very conscious of the fact that in addition to being highly dedicated school staff, the team I lead are all human beings with loved ones and families of their own. As with all of us, they do not want to be in this position.

Over the coming weeks, while many people are working from home or engaging in social distancing, they will be providing a service which is very different from that for which they trained, in an attempt to support the National effort to combat the impact of Coronavirus.

I am immensely proud of the selfless dedication; flexibility and commitment they are showing on behalf of all in our local community at this unprecedented time for the Country.

What this means in practice:

We will no longer be involved in the education of children.

No children (including those being supervised on site) will be learning National Curriculum content. This function has been suspended. The staff will no longer be educators in the format we are all (including the staff) used to being and all available school resources (including human resource) will be re-deployed to sustain our new function for as long as we possibly can.

As such, children are not required to be 'taught' while they are at home with their parents. I have provided suggested activities alongside this letter should you be interested in using them. Be advised: (a) these are suggestions only, there will be no follow up in school and (b) no additional materials will be provided over time. Do not contact the school regarding this as our attention is focussed elsewhere at this time and you will not receive a reply.

My child is in Year 6: What about their SATs..?

A note from Mr Page: The children in Year Six have worked incredibly hard this year and should be proud of everything they have achieved. Due to the announcement last night that exams have been

cancelled, they will not now be sitting their end of year SATs. As a result we will no longer be sending home practice materials to help them revise.

It is not yet clear what academic information will be passed on to Secondary Schools at the end of the year. Rest assured, however, that we know your children very well and a thorough handover will take place.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the incredible team that works in Year Six who have gone above and beyond to ensure that the children receive an outstanding education this year and to thank the children for all of their hard work.

Mr Page

From Monday (23rd March 2020) we will be providing care for the vulnerable and/or children of key workers.

- 1) As outlined above, this will not be education. We will, in effect, be babysitting these children so that their adults can provide an essential onward service to those in need.
- 2) If your child falls in to the Government category of vulnerable (to be provided to schools tomorrow, Friday 20th March 2020) you will be notified once it has been received. If you have not been notified, your child does not qualify.
- 3) **Key workers.** Again, the Government will define these roles tomorrow. We will send out another communication following this release (i.e. sometime tomorrow) in which you can notify us of your status (which will need to be evidenced on Monday). **IMPORTANT:** (1) Please do not contact the school about this except via the mechanism outlined within the related communication and (2) Be aware that if your role is not on the list, it does not qualify and therefore school is closed.

I am a Key Worker, does my child have to attend school from next week?

No. The provision for these groups will be entirely optional. In fact, wherever possible, we would encourage children to stay at home with their families and observe Government advice linked to social distancing.

Due to the impact of the pandemic, the school is likely to be running at reduced capacity.

We can not judge how many staff we will have available to work at any particular time as the outbreak develops. As such, we will not be answering any email/telephone queries to parents other than those we have on site.

Only contact the school during the period of closure unless your child is in one of the groups identified above or your circumstances deteriorate significantly over time.

If you have a medical concern, contact 111. If you have a Safeguarding concern, phone the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 or 999 in an emergency.

My child is entitled to Free School Meals

The Government have indicated that there will be some form of meal provision for this group moving forward. We do not know yet what this will look like but do know the families affected. We will contact these families directly as and when the information is made available.

Next steps for the school:

- Contact parents of children in nationally identified vulnerable groups (this will happen tomorrow).
- Ask key workers in our school community to identify themselves (this will happen tomorrow).
- Provide suggested home learning for all children (attached with this letter).

Next steps for you:

- Identify yourself as a key worker (to be identified by the Government) using the mechanisms identified tomorrow.
- Ensure you have a way of evidencing your employment as a key worker on Monday (e.g. ID badge; warrant card; Pay Slip; official note from employer – to be confirmed tomorrow).
- Follow Government advice regarding actions to keep yourself; your family and others safe at this time.

Finally, on behalf of the entire LJS team, I would like to wish you the very best for the coming weeks. As the Prime Minister alluded to in his initial statement some days ago, we are entering what is likely to be a very difficult time.

I hope that the next few weeks are as uneventful as possible for you and your family and we look forward to returning to what we had previously taken for granted as 'normal life' as soon as possible.

Best wishes and be safe everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Twyman', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Dan Twyman
Headteacher