



"Partnership in Learning"

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## COVID-19 Closure Weekly Bulletin (Number 1)

Dear Parents,

We hope that this finds you and your loved ones well at this time; that you are managing to settle in to some sort of 'lockdown' routine and **most importantly** that you are finding ways to make the most of the unprecedented amount of time you have together with your immediate loved ones – something which is highly unlikely to ever happen in this way again.

For those of you, like us, not in the position to do this day to day - or who find themselves part of vulnerable groups and/or quarantined - our thoughts and best wishes are with you most of all.

### School Update

The staff and I have spent this week establishing a sustainable routine in order to ensure that our school has remained open for the children of Key Workers and those who are potentially vulnerable at home, as requested by the Prime Minister. This has posed a number of logistical problems as we work our way through achieving this aim whilst also ensuring that we are compliant with the many rules and regulations that are associated with having children (irrespective of the number) on a state maintained school site.

### Free School Meals

One of the logistical challenges we have been trying to solve is how to provide those families whose children are entitled to a free school meal but are currently off site with the food they potentially need. We have a plan in place for this now and if your child falls in to this category you will have been contacted by the school to outline arrangements.

If you find that your family's circumstances deteriorate over time (or you are an ex-key worker called back in to emergency service in the coming days/weeks) **do not hesitate** to contact the school on: [adminoffice@lymington-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@lymington-jun.hants.sch.uk)

### Home Learning

Another copy of our suggested learning activities (originally sent last week) is attached with this letter. A possible daily home schooling daily timetable is outlined below.

It is important to be clear once again that effective, long-lasting teaching is about far more than the completion of worksheets. In the midst of a global health emergency, this is not the priority for you, your child or the school at this time.

Rest assured that your child will not 'fall behind' or 'get ahead' if they do or do not do learning activities throughout this period of closure. In fact, too much insistence on 'learning' in the way referenced above risks turning children off the process altogether; a barrier that would make things much harder for us when the children return.

Our staff will use any additional time available to them in the coming weeks to ensure that they are fully prepared and ready to hit the ground running with quality provision for **all children** when school life returns to normal.

***Suggested Daily Timetable (only for use where required):***

9:00 – 9:30am	Joe Wick PE Sessions (Available at You Tube. Just search: Joe Wick PE)
9:30 – 10:00am	Independent Reading (This could be a story book; comic; appropriate website of interest)
10:00 – 10:30am	Timetables Rockstars (You should know your child’s login details)
10:30 – 11:00am	Unstructured Time (i.e. a ‘break’)
11:00 – 12:00	Complete one of the suggested activities from our home learning ideas pack: reattached to this email. (This could perhaps be focused on a different subject area each day)
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch (Even hard working home schoolers need to eat!)
13:00 – 14:00	Bake cakes/Do some gardening/Play board games or cards together (Anything that involves FUN/following instructions/taking turns)
14:00 – 15:00	<i>While we are allowed to:</i> Go for a family walk. (You could attempt to identify different trees; plants or birds)

**Social Media Use**

We recognise and appreciate that social media will be a valuable tool for keeping people connected at this time. We also understand that everybody will have a variety of personal opinions on all kinds of subjects.

***Fair warning:*** should any such opinions about the school, or individual members of its staff group, be expressed in a way that is **libellous** or **defamatory** they will be passed immediately to the Local Authority’s legal team for further action.

**Keeping in touch**

We will be sending out a weekly bulletin every Friday with a roundup of key information. Please check your emails for this and do take the time to read it.

**Final Reflection**

It is interesting to note that not all schools in our locality are offering the provision we are currently focussed on and are closed to all members of their community, including the children of key workers and those deemed to be vulnerable.

The teamwork; flexibility and resilience that the LJS staff team have shown in recent days, ensuring the sustainability of our emergency provision on behalf of the local community has been outstanding. They have stepped forward to continue to act for others at a time when the Government is instructing people to lockdown for their own health and that of their immediate families.

We are determined to ensure that key workers - and those in most need - within the Lymington Junior School community are proactively supported by us for as long as we possibly can.

I am even more proud than ever to be the Headteacher of this school and thank the staff for living the LJ Way together at such a difficult time.

Look after each other and stay safe.

Dan Twyman, Headteacher