



Coronavirus Update 20th March

Dear all,

It is very strange thinking that this will be the last time we will see many of you for an unknown period of time. I know and understand that many children are finding this really difficult, as are most of the adults. Attached with this letter is a useful document from Wiltshire Council on how to stay safe and well during this time.

Once again, I would like to extend my genuine thanks to all who have reached out with offers of help, support and appreciation. We have all done our best to keep you up to date and make decisions quickly. We have had no advance notice of any of the government's plans nor any additional support, we simply see the news at the same time as everyone else then are left to find our way through. We have been left to create a whole new system of working in less than 48hrs without key information and we truly are doing all we can. I only share this in the hope that those who have chosen to voice criticism about us may be a little kinder.

Isolation

Whilst children are not attending school please note the following:

'Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults' gov.co.uk

This will help reduce the spread and keep us all safe.

Year 6

If we are closed for an extended period we will do our very best, within what is permitted, to find alternative ways to make up for what the children are being forced to miss. For example we will run a Year 6 leavers' disco whether that is in June, July or even September onward: we will run it and invite pupils back.

Key Workers

Thank you all for completing the key workers survey, it really helped with forward planning. Pupils must not attend school on Monday unless you have received a letter from us stating that you meet the government criteria for schooling during this period. All letters confirming a place from Monday should have been received by email by 12pm today. If you have not received a letter or did not complete the survey and feel you meet the key worker criteria please contact the office via email with the subject line 'Key worker ASAP'.

The numbers of parents asking school to continue to provide care is high. Please bear in mind the government's key principle of:

'If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.' Gov.co.uk

We are proud and happy to play our part in supporting our amazing NHS workers and other emergency services so they can continue to keep us all safe. Please only use this service if absolutely necessary so we can ensure enough provision for those who truly need it.

Home Learning

There is a separate letter attached being sent home today detailing the learning projects that have been created for families to use to maintain learning at home during this period.



Free School Meals

We are in the final stages of completing our strategy for free school meals which we will share ASAP, but by Monday morning at the latest.

Help and support whilst closed

Leaders and staff will be in school during the closure period if you need help or support please call us or email either:

admin@kingsforestschoo.co.uk for Kings' Forest and Little Forest Parents

enquiries@stplaehillschool.co.uk for Staple Hill

Please use the subject 'support'.

On behalf of all the staff and governors, thank you for your support through what has been a difficult week for everyone. Please listen to the advice, follow the guidance and stay safe. One of the good things to come out of this challenging situation has been how communities have come together to support one another, I hope you continue to look after each other and the vulnerable within your street.

I hope to see you all back in school in the not too distant future. I will write to you all with updates as they develop.

Kind regards



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