

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020



Dear Carers and Parents,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

I am sure that over the last couple of weeks you have all had both challenging and rewarding experiences. This is perfectly natural as we all adjust to new ways of working and being indoors. I know that in my household, we are balancing looking after our children, visits to workplaces and home-working. For some separated families, they have also made the decision for their children to remain with one carer or parent which has an additional emotional impact on all involved. All families are different and will find their own ways to make the current situation work. Similarly, all schools are different and are doing what they think is right for their respective communities.

We recognise that some learners will find this situation more challenging than others, especially as time passes. Please do not hesitate to contact the Senior Leadership Team if you do need some support. Their contact email addresses are;

Sara Avenell – Primary Department Leader – [sara.avenell@kennellaneschool.com](mailto:sara.avenell@kennellaneschool.com)

Sammy O'Brien – Woodlands Hub Leader – [samantha.O'Brien@kennellaneschool.com](mailto:samantha.O'Brien@kennellaneschool.com)

Jo Roclawski – Secondary Department Leader – [jo.roclawski@kennellaneschool.com](mailto:jo.roclawski@kennellaneschool.com)

Michelle Higgs – Designated Safeguarding Leader – [michelle.higgs@kennellaneschool.com](mailto:michelle.higgs@kennellaneschool.com)

We kindly ask that all communication is made through the Senior Leadership team and not class teachers. This is to support our teachers who are also adjusting to a new way of working.

Our Safeguarding Team, Senior Leadership Team and SENCO have spoken to a number of carers, parents and learners. All of our families are different and therefore the support we provide varies depending on each learner's needs. Please avoid speculation on social media. If you would like to speak to a member of school staff please use the email addresses above. We can then call you. We appreciate your support with this as it can add to others anxiety at an already difficult time.

We will be providing updates in the following ways;

- School Comms – The next message will be towards the end of the Easter holidays notifying carers and parents whether we will remain closed. If we remain closed, there will be a weekly review and a weekly School Comms message.
- School's Website – <https://www.kennellaneschool.com/> - This is being regularly updated with Home Learning Resources and communications to carers, parents and learners.
- Twitter – Our Twitter account is @KLSBracknell.

Our website is being regularly updated with learning resources for you to do at home with your young person. If we remain closed post-Easter, on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April teachers will email all carers and parents with specific activities to support your young person with their TALENTS journey targets and new topic ideas. Completed work and photographs of your young person completing activities can be sent to their teachers. This should be only email communication directly to teachers. This will enable teachers to continue planning, making resources to send home and assessing and marking work received.

We provided all the carers and parents of our Pupil Premium learners with a Sainsbury's voucher before school closed. In addition, we have been offering carers and parents whose young person is in receipt of Free School Meals the opportunity to pick up a packed lunch on a daily basis. If we remain closed after Easter we will be replacing this with the government voucher scheme. All carers and parents of learners who are in receipt of Free School Meals will receive a weekly £15 voucher. Sammy O'Brien will be leading on this, please contact her using the email address above.

Currently, we are providing provision for the children of our key workers through a company called The Alt Prov. Like a lot of schools, we have had to prioritise those families where both parents are key workers and single key worker parents. However, if you feel you may need this support please contact [samantha.morgan@kennellaneschool.com](mailto:samantha.morgan@kennellaneschool.com) providing evidence from your employer to identify your role and that you are not able to work from home.

Headteacher:

Asst Head, Primary:

Asst Head, Support & Intervention/DSL:

Asst Head, Secondary:

Asst Head, Additional Provision:

Jenny Baker

Sara Avenell

Michelle Higgs

Jo Roclawski

Sammy O'Brien

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Sadly, based on the guidance as it currently stands, the school is likely to remain closed after the Easter break. The guidance says;

- 'If children are able to stay at home safely, they should.' This is because the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread.
- The government is advising all persons that are, '*increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures.*' Your young person falls into this category. '*They must avoid social contact for 12 weeks as from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.*'
- The above bullet point also applies to a significant number of colleagues. This would impact on our ability to operate safely.

This decision will be reviewed at the end of the Easter holidays as the guidance may change.

We will be putting together a regular newsletter for you to share with your young person. This will also be on our website. Edition 1 will be going live shortly. If you are happy for us to share photographs of you and your young person at home doing various activities on our website please can you send them to Sam at [samantha.morgan@kennellaneschool.com](mailto:samantha.morgan@kennellaneschool.com).

Every one of us misses your young people; the school seems a very strange place without them! We all look forward to seeing them again when it is safe to do so.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding in these challenging times. Wishing you and your family a happy and safe Easter break.

Best wishes,



**Jenny Baker**  
Headteacher

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Asst Head, Primary:

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