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27th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all in good health and keeping safe.

RPS continues to remain open for a small number of pupils. These are children of key workers, those with EHC plans/additional special needs funding or those who have been identified as vulnerable in some way by the school e.g. those in temporary accommodation. We continue to follow Public Health guidance. We are very grateful to all key workers and NHS frontline staff who are working tirelessly during these challenging times. We will aim to continue supporting you. I would like to express my gratitude to all the teaching staff, admin staff, cleaners and kitchen staff who have made this possible.

Government Advice

Message from our Secretary of State: You should only send your child to school if you have to, because your work is critical to our COVID-19 response. If you are able to keep your child at home, you should. Stay Home...Save Lives!

To clarify, the latest directive from the Government is that for the next 3 weeks at least, people will be allowed to leave home only for the following reasons:

- shopping for necessities, as infrequently as possible
- one form of exercise a day, such as running or cycling, alone or with household members
- medical or care needs, for example to help a vulnerable person
- travelling to and from work, but only if you cannot work from home

Meeting friends, shopping for anything beyond essentials, and gathering in crowds, particularly of any more than two people, are now banned. These directives are severe and we will be doing everything to support this new approach here at DKH.

Government advice continues to strongly encourages children staying at home if it is possible and safe to do so. For those attending please note our advice is that those with either a new, continuous cough or high temperature should self-isolate for 14 days. If your child is showing either of these symptoms, please keep them at home and call or email the school with the reason for absence. We continue to encourage the practice of good hygiene at school and insist on parents practicing social distancing with staff and other parents when picking up and dropping children off at school.

Home Learning

I would like to thank our wonderful team of teachers and Tony Frootes (web designer) for organising home learning for our children on the website. Teachers are increasingly attempting to create short stories and teaching film clips to help you at home. Please look out for these on the website.

We urge all families to **read as regularly as possible**. If you are finding it difficult to get books, there is https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/ as well as Amazon's Audible books: https://stories.audible.com/discovery.

Our school staff are checking in with some families to support them during this difficult time so be prepared for this. I urge you to please contact the school office if you need any support or require the services of a foodbank, we will help you as much as possible.

Lunch

Currently we are offering for parents to collect a packed lunch from school. Please contact the school office before 9:30 if you require this. We do not want to waste food so will only provide this if you call us in the morning and request it. We are **not** currently offering food vouchers. Please be aware that there is a **scam email** being sent to parents. This is requesting parents share bank details. **Do not respond to it**. **Delete** it immediately.

Updates and further information

For updates and further information please check the Public Health England (PHE) website:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public

Department for Education Coronavirus helpline - this helpline has been set up to answer questions about the virus related to education.

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

As we enter another unknown stage in all our lives, I urge that everyone follow the advice given by our Government in relation to COVID-19, to keep themselves and their families safe. Thank you for your understanding and patience as our team has developed our response to the government's announcement of school closures in ever-changing circumstances. I appreciate that the next few weeks and potentially months will be unfamiliar and challenging, and we will adapt, as you and your children do, to the demands of distance learning.

Please stay well and safe during these times and continue to look out for one another.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Christiansen
Head of School