

Friday 8th January 2021

January 2021 Reopening - Lockdown

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you have had a restful and peaceful Christmas.

Once again, we continue to write to you during times like we have never experienced before in our lifetimes. We are again in a full country wide lockdown and any 'new normal' we hoped for this year has had to be abandoned.

Like you, we are also having to adapt to rapid changes in these very uncertain times. We continue to hear of any changes at the same time as you through news conferences or news reports.

We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank and congratulate our staff team for the huge effort they have put in to get remote learning reengaged and for all the support they are giving to children both at home or in school.

We are very pleased that we can continue to offer the in school support to children with ECHP, Social Workers, Vulnerable or Critical Workers. The uptake has been staggering and we are at capacity set within our own school Risk Assessment. If you have a place, please consider if it is absolutely needed.

We are continuing to work with one 'bubble' per year group, taught in their year group classrooms, supported by their year group staff on a fortnightly rota. If a member of staff is not in school they are supporting their year group remotely through online learning.

Online Learning

You should all have had details from your class teachers about accessing online learning. If you haven't had details, please contact the school by emailing flo@kingsnorth.kent.sch.uk or via your year group at (replacing the 'x' with your year group number) yearx@kingsnorth.kent.sch.uk.

Alongside our provision on Seesaw <https://web.seesaw.me> and on the class pages www.kingsnorth.kent.sch.uk/classpages, we are also providing regular online 'check ins' for the children to talk direct to their teachers and discuss how their learning is going and how they are feeling. We are looking at providing a weekly online Collective Worship and Celebration Worship for the children to watch alongside other CW on our YouTube channel, allowing children to feel connected and part of the school. We are also arranging for our classroom support staff to work more closely online with specific children to support their learning.

There will be a variety of learning support provided online. Some will be activities from the teachers direct, while others will be recorded teaching and instruction with the Oak Academy (www.thenational.academy) and BBC Learning (www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc or www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize or www.bbc.co.uk/teach)

You can see many of the staff and hear many of your favourite stories on our YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLvi4acAvu-Vozu969l6R6g>. Stories are always being added so keep visiting to see what's been added!

Keeping you updated

As things are ever changing, we are doing our utmost to keep in contact with you! We have our text and email systems. If you aren't receiving messages through these, please contact the school office to check we have the most up to date contact details – office@kingsnorth.kent.sch.uk.

We also have our social media pages where we try and keep you informed of school events and happenings in a wider context.

Facebook – @kingsnorthcep

Twitter – @KINGSCEP

LinkedIn – head-teacher-801a10134

Symptom-free Testing Sites across Kent

To book a test, use this link: <https://kcc.healthit.org.uk/covbook/home>

These sites are in addition to the regional and local testing sites for people who have symptoms. If you have symptoms, you should NOT attend one of the symptom-free testing sites but instead book a PCR test <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed, you may be eligible for free school meal vouchers whilst at home in lockdown.

This is different to 'Universal Free Schools Meals' (Years R, 1+2) so it is always worth checking.

It takes a couple of minutes and could help you while at home.

Please follow this link - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>.

Online Learning

An article on 'How to use an Xbox or PlayStation for online learning' www.tes.com/news/how-use-xbox-or-playstation-online-learning.

Increasing Data allowances on Mobile devices

This may be of use for some families:

<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about...>

Laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers provided during coronavirus

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/laptops-tablets-and-4g-wireless-routers-provided-during-coronavirus-covid-19> If you need additional access to the internet and cannot access the provision above, please contact the school and we can look into requesting for a device for you.

Please remember we are always here to help however, we are limited in our current capacity as we have to keep our children and staff safe.

We pray that you can find joy and happiness in these times.

Best wishes,

The School Leadership Team and Governors