



King's School & Nursery

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18 March 2020

Dear Parents

COVID-19 Update - School Closure Information

As you will be aware, the Government has this afternoon announced the closure of all schools in England from the end of Friday 20th March due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Our school premises will continue as normal tomorrow and Friday. The Spring Term will still end on Friday 27th March and we are planning on the Summer Term commencing as previously advised on Tuesday 21st April, whether physically at school or virtually.

We are exploring the means by which we could offer supervised care for the children of key workers. Please let me know by 3.30pm, tomorrow, Thursday 19th March, via the School Secretary on school.secretary@kingsschool-plymouth.co.uk, if you feel you may fall into this category and we will confirm details shortly.

I appreciate this news is unsettling but want to reassure you of the steps we are taking to provide support for our students and parents during the closure. As you know, we have been working closely with our Cognita colleagues in Asia, where some countries have had mandatory school closures for many weeks and also more recently in Spain and Switzerland. Our plan for King's School and Nursery is informed by the practice they have put in place and we are confident we have an effective strategy for our children to continue learning. We have recently refreshed the digital technology in our school and conducted training in its use, which means our teaching staff are well equipped to make the transition to digital learning for your child.

Five day remote learning packs and daily timetables will be issued, for all school children, this Friday. Your child's Class Teacher/Key Worker will be in touch next week with specific details about their online learning programme, which will be delivered via Microsoft Teams for KS2 and Seesaw for KS1, Foundation and Early Years. Please can I remind all parents of KS1 and EYFS that you need to complete the on-line Seesaw GDPR permission form that was sent out to you yesterday before your child can access the platform. Clearly this will be a new way of working and learning for us all and we expect to adapt the programme as we go.

We appreciate that there will be an impact on parents and our plan includes advice for you. With that in mind, our Group Wellbeing Director Beth Kerr has prepared the attached 'Be Well Tips' for parents on supporting your child during a school closure.

Thank you in advance for your support at this challenging time. Our teachers have been preparing well for the possibility of a closure. All our efforts are concentrated on two priorities: maintaining the wellbeing of our children and staff and ensuring the continuity of their education in the days or weeks to come. I am particularly grateful to our fabulous King's

staff team who, during this unprecedented time, have embraced the idea of adapting their teaching and preparing for on-line learning so that we can maintain as high a standard of education as possible for your children, through adopting our remote and online learning protocol.

During the school closure period all teachers will be on their school email addresses, which we will share with you next week, they can be contacted either directly or through the School Office. We will continue to communicate closely with you throughout the closure and will update as soon as we have more information. Please do not hesitate to contact me personally at clare.page@kingsschool-plymouth.co.uk if you have any further questions.

Kind regards



Mrs Clare Page
Headteacher

