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Langtoft Primary School

School Closure – Update #1

Friday 20 March 2020

We have attempted to answer your FAQs and give you as much information as we have at this stage. We are working on a week-by-week basis as we do not know the long-term plans for school closures.

This update covers the week beginning 23 March 2020.

Q. Should my child come to school?

A. No.

To limit the chance of the virus spreading, the government has asked parents to **keep their children at home**, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those **children who absolutely need to attend**.

It is important to underline that schools remain safe places for children: the fewer children making the journey to school, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide **care for a limited number of children** - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

The school will be closed to all other children.

The school is open week beginning 23 March for vulnerable children and for children whose parents are 'key workers' **only**. These have been defined as:

1. Health and social care

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

2. Education and childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

3. Key public services

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

4. Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

5. Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

6. Public safety and national security

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

7. Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

8. Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

The school will be open from 0855 to 1515. There will not be any after-school clubs. Parents were instructed today to complete a form on ParentMail to let the school know which sessions their child will need to attend next week.

A similar form will be uploaded next Thursday to plan for week beginning 30 March.

We do not yet know what the arrangements will be beyond the end of Term 4 on Thursday 2 April 2020.

PLEASE NOTE The school is open **only** to those children whose parents cannot find alternative supervision.

PlayZone Kids Club will be open to families with key workers. If you are not registered with PlayZone and require their services because you are a key worker, contact them on enquiries@playzonekidsclub.co.uk or by contacting Dorinda on 07858 252207.

Q. Will my child be fed at school?

A. Depends.

Yes, if they are eligible for a free school meal. We have ordered these for you. The meal will be delivered to school for you to collect. Call us before you set off to collect it. The Department for Education have made this statement, too:

We have confirmed that we will give schools the flexibility to deliver meals or provide shop vouchers to children entitled to free school meals if they are no longer attending school, either due to closures or as a result of self-isolating at home.

Schools will be able to provide meals or vouchers for supermarkets or local shops, which can be sent directly to families who are either self-isolating at home or whose schools are closed on government advice. Final rates will be confirmed in the coming days, but we have confirmed that the voucher value for each eligible child will exceed the rate that schools are paid for free school meals, recognising that families will not be buying food in bulk and may therefore incur higher costs.

Full guidance can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance>

No, if your child is in EYFS, Y1 or Y2 and is entitled to a Universal Infant Free School Meal. This is different to a free school meal.

If you are a key worker whose child needs to be in school because you cannot find alternative provision, you will need to send your child with a packed lunch.

If your child is eligible for a free school meal (12 children) but your child is not in school, there are plans for The Farm Kitchen to provide a packed lunch for your child.

Q. What about milk?

A. Cancelled.

Refunds will be given in due course. Please be patient.

Q. Should I pay for forthcoming school visits and residential?

A. No. Ignore any reminders to pay.

Whilst we are not officially cancelling planned visits and residentials, we are in the process of cancelling the coaches booked for all visits and residentials so that the school does not have to fund cancellations charges incurred due to short notice. We are talking to the Youth Hostel Association (board and lodgings for Ironbridge (Y5)) and Stibbington Centre for Environmental Studies (Y4) regarding arrangements for refunding payments.

Q. How will my child's teacher set work to do at home?

A. Each class teacher has been set the task of preparing work to be completed at home next week (and the week after but let's focus on next week first). The work will be sent home via ParentMail in time for Monday 23 March. Some materials will have come home in book bags today.

PLEASE NOTE: If you do not have internet access, please tell us.

- ✚ Mathematics learning will be via MyMaths for pupils in Y1 to Y6. This is new for pupils in Y1 so we have issued each child in Y1 with a logon details.
- ✚ Children on the Oxford Reading Tree scheme will be sent home with a current book plus a second book. Children on Read Write Inc Phonics programme will be sent home with a book they have read before, the book they are reading presently, and the next one in the sequence
- ✚ English learning will be a mixture of reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation exercises.

Children will not be bringing home their exercise books. They will be bringing home a 'homework' book for them to complete their work. It is highly unlikely that teachers will mark the work completed at home.

The format for homework will be reviewed at the start of Term 5 once we know how long the school closure plan will be in place.

We do not yet know how much on-going support we can provide for children who 'get stuck' and whose parents cannot support them. You should find that the work set for next week is a natural continuation of this week's learning so there should not be too many problems for now...

Q. Will after-school clubs of any kind carry on?

A. No.

All clubs are cancelled from Monday 20 March 2020. Children who do attend school next week should be collected at 3:10pm or 3:15pm. Please see the note above about PlayZone's services.

Q. Is it true that SATs have been cancelled?

A. Yes.

All statutory assessment tests have been cancelled. This includes the end-of-Foundation-Stage assessment, Y1 Phonics Screening Check, the Y2 End-of-Key-Stage-1 assessments, the Y4 Multiplication Tables Check and the Y6 End-of-Key-Stage-2 tests (AKA SATs). There will not be any performance tables published this year.

We do not yet know how we will report assessments to parents in the Annual Academic Reports.

Q. What's happening with music lessons?

A. We have received this information from Sarah Young and Jan Cross:

We are aware that some children will not receive their full lesson allocation this term due to school closures. All parents pay for 24 teaching weeks up to the end of term 4. For many lessons, children will have received their full allocation of lessons for this period. We are aware that for a small number of students, they will have lessons outstanding that cannot be fulfilled this term.

As I am sure you are aware, this is an ever changing situation, and we are unable to say when we will be able to recommence teaching at this stage. We want to reassure all parents who have not received all lessons that we will ensure all children receive their allocated time on our return to school. When we return to school, we will be contacting all affected parents with our plan of action for missed lessons.

Q. How will I know what is going on?

A. We will keep you informed via ParentMail.

The school office will be staffed Monday to Friday, 0845 to 1300 to receive telephone calls.

We shall telephone twice a week those families identified as vulnerable to 'check in' with them.

The school's website 'News' box will be updated with any significant news.