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Langtoft Primary School

School Closure – Update #4

Thursday 16 April 2020

Stay at home. Protect the NHS. Save lives.

This update outlines the plans for week beginning 20 April.

Next update due on Thursday 23 April 2020.

'A MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT'

As we enter the second month of school closure and a national lockdown, there are no indications from the *Department for Education* that schools will reopen in the near future. With this in mind, I have asked staff to prepare suggestions for learning at home for next week – what would have been the start of Term 5. I will send this out on ParentMail tomorrow (Friday) as is now the routine.

The feedback I have received from parents on the content of the suggestions has been highly positive. Thank you for appreciating what class teachers have assembled in a short amount of time. Guidance from the *Department for Education* to school leaders on this is brief:

What are the expectations on schools regarding staying in touch with parents whose child is at home?

We recognise that many schools have already shared resources for children who are at home and are grateful for this.

The Department for Education is working with the BBC, and other partners, to provide advice and support directly to parents, including online resources they can access for their children at home. We have published an initial [list of online educational resources](#) to help children to learn at home.

Schools should work with local authorities to monitor the welfare of vulnerable children who are not attending school, and other pupils they might wish to keep in touch with, for safeguarding purposes.

We know that it is not easy to motivate a child to complete 'work' at home: many staff are parents of primary aged children, too! The home setting is different, their friends aren't there and 'that's not how Mrs-So-and-So does it'. We recommend establishing a routine – see *School Closure Update #3* – and attempting two hours of school 'work' per day.

The school does not have an established way of delivering lessons via technologically, perhaps through video or podcast. I am also mindful of those families who cannot access such technology. ParentMail works for our parents – you all receive it. We are thinking of other ways of sharing suggestions that could include a more 'human touch'. This will be an important element should the closure continue for months rather than weeks. We are considering how feedback could be given to children that is manageable for staff and helpful to children. We have been trying out Seesaw in Y3 and Y4 but have not used this during the closure as not all teachers have access and it has not been set up for all classes due to the 'trial' nature of it. Equity is really important at times like this.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Now that the way of life we find ourselves in is slowly becoming the normal way of life, it is important to pace ourselves mentally for the coming weeks. This is a marathon, not a sprint. As families, we have established daily routines, worked out how to buy food, our employers have furloughed us. We now know what it is to be isolated. We now appreciate how important our relationships with others are.

Some of the children in Y6 having been keeping in touch through Zoom, learning how to use British Sign Language to sign/sing along to *We'll Meet Again*. View their achievement here: <https://youtu.be/uu9DQIoAm8> Well done to those involved. I look forward to watching your next video! Perhaps *our* Freddie as *the* Freddie leading us in *I Want to Break Free*?



We'd like to hear from any other groups or classes that have been finding creative ways to keep in touch during the lockdown. If you are happy for me to share them then please send your achievements to enquiries@langtoft.lincs.sch.uk

KEEPING SAFE

With online activity likely to have increased during the lockdown, now is probably a good time to have another chat with your children about how they keep themselves safe online. I have updated our eSafety page on the school website and I also attached a useful one-page guide from the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.

THE SCHOOL CONTINUES TO BE CLOSED

To limit the chance of the virus spreading, the government has asked parents to keep their children at home and has asked schools to **remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend** because i) their parents' work is critical to the COVID-19 response ii) they are vulnerable children with an Education and Health Care Plan and/or a Social Worker. This message has now gotten through as we only have a very small number of children who need to access the school's childcare offer. This is only possible because staff are prepared to come to school and so I thank them most sincerely.

INFORMING THE SCHOOL THAT YOU NEED CHILDCARE

If you need to use the school for childcare because you are worker critical to the COVID-19 response and you have no other option, you must email me using the school's email address: enquiries@langtoft.lincs.sch.uk, stating:

- i) your child/ren's names
- ii) which sessions you require (morning and/or afternoon) on which days
- iii) the nature of your critical work

Please send your email **before and no later than 11:30 a.m. the day before** you need the school to be open for your child. For example, if you need to work on Thursday, you must have emailed by 11:30 a.m. of the morning of Wednesday. If you know in advance what your work pattern will be then please let me know for the week ahead. That will help me to plan.

If parents do not need childcare for their critical work, I will close the school that day.