



Langtoft Primary School

School Closure – Update #5

Thursday 23 April 2020

Stay at home. Protect the NHS. Save lives.

This update outlines the plans for week beginning 27 April.

Next update due on Thursday 30 April 2020.

WHEN WILL SCHOOL RE-OPEN?

We don't know the answer to that question, do we? The education-focused press conference last Sunday did not give an indication and the daily updates from the *Department for Education* to school leaders gives the same message.

There is a lot of discussion about what schools will look like when they do re-open. *Will it open to all year groups or just some? Will the children have to sit two metres apart? Will we have to be tested before we can return?* We do not have the answers to these or the tens of other related questions and so it becomes more and more important that we adjust to our new way of 'schooling'.

SCHOOLING FROM HOME

Term 5 has begun and the *Department for Education* has launched (on 20 April) its official website for supporting learning at home. It is called Oak National Academy and can be found here: <https://www.thenational.academy/> The BBC's *Bitesize* website has been enhanced with extra lessons. Alongside these websites, class teachers are using *Oxford Owl*, *MyMaths*, *White Rose* (mathematics), *Read Write Inc Phonics* on YouTube, and, of course, Joe Wicks on YouTube.

From next week, you can expect the suggestions for home learning from your child's teacher/s to:

- ✓ Refer to the same small number of websites so that you and your child can become familiar with them
- ✓ provide answers to the 'work' set if the websites used do not 'mark' the work for you. This has been requested by a couple of you who have been in touch. Good idea!
- ✓ focus on the core skills of reading, writing and numeracy. These are skills we do not want the children to lose by not using them
- ✓ a few suggestions for topic-related learning. We can plug knowledge gaps later...
- ✓ promote exercise and therefore well-being
- ✓ take about two hours to complete as a rough guide. We know every child is different
- ✓ respond to how well children are doing on *MyMaths*. Teachers can view from home which children have completed the activities and how they have got on.

We accept that learning at home is very different to learning in school. Many of you are not teachers - and never thought that you would be! Set a routine for each day: schools run on

routine. Don't worry if you are not getting through all of the suggestions. Do what you can when you can. If you are struggling to get through the ideas, focus on those core skills of reading, writing and numeracy. And remember...

NEED HELP?

If you are struggling with supporting your child with a particular area of learning (and 'google' hasn't provided the answer!), please be reminded that you can ask for help by emailing me at enquiries@langtoft.lincs.sch.uk State your child's name, year group and outline your problem. I can then forward this to your child's teacher/s who will be happy to help where they can. Please expect a reply in about two days.

The information below is unchanged from last week:

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.