

Saturday 21st March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly I want to say a huge thank you to all the parents who have offered words of encouragement and support through what has been a tough couple of days. My staff and I truly appreciate your understanding and patience whilst we plan and manage the implications of closing the physical school site and move to remote working. We are in such an unprecedented time and dealing with such an unknown situation, so I hope this communication says what it needs and feels appropriate to you.

From Monday the school is closed for 'normal' business, but it remains in operation. Our capacity to operate will be limited by staffing as, like everyone across the country we are being asked to minimise social contact to only that which is necessary and of course that is subject to change as more intelligence about the situation comes to light.

This is therefore the starting point for the next two weeks.

Across the country, everyone is urged to take all steps to avoid all 'non-essential' social contact.

Social distancing is the first line of action and the priority for all. To aid this process schools are charged by the Government to continue to provide education for your children but through a distance learning model, this is a new method of teaching to us and we anticipate it may take a few days to get into the full swing of this. Please be patient but equally don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require assistance. We do not know as yet how our IT infrastructure will hold up to this demand but will be working with our IT providers to ensure that we can find solutions around problems that may arise.

However, balanced against this, there is a need to also maintain a number of key services to manage the implications of the virus. To this end schools have been asked to support, where they have the capacity to do so, to enable children who are vulnerable and/or those who belong to a family where parents work in key services to come to school **where and when parents have no other option**. This is not intended to lead to bespoke learning, but is a measure to **provide care** to safeguard children in this situation.

We will therefore be making the site accessible from 8.30am to 4.30pm during the week, to students who fall into the categories stated by the Government in their latest announcement on Friday in accordance with the directives therein.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Depending on the numbers of pupils this might mean on any given day/time and our capacity with staff, we may be able to accommodate other students where parents face an emergency situation for which they have no alternative. This will be possible only through agreement with myself or a member of the leadership team.

Parents who have already confirmed their school places for Monday will be sent a separate communication outlining the expectations for Monday within the next 24 hours.

More details on what this all entails will be issued over the coming days but the school has already been in communication with families in this situation in readiness for next week. If you are a parent who falls under the 'Key Worker' list and as yet you have not informed us that you may need to make use of the school provision support, please email the school on keyworkers@kings-international.co.uk to advise us and we will make direct contact with you.

Over the coming weeks you **all** should expect to have weekly contact from your child's tutor or another identified member of staff (unless they are ill) for us to keep in touch and identify how things are going and if there is any additional support we can offer. Attached to this communication is a parent guide to home learning that we have created that should answer any of your questions and provide support.

The government announced on Friday that a scheme was being developed for parents whose children are entitled to free school meals. This morning I have spoken with both Sainsbury's and Tesco to identify how and when this system will be available for the school to purchase the vouchers and as yet they have not had their government briefing on details. In the meantime our school canteen will be preparing cold lunches for free school meal children to collect between 12 and 1pm daily. We hope to provide hot meals in the coming days, subject to staff availability, until supermarket vouchers can be made available to you.

This first 2 weeks will inevitably be quite a learning curve for us all and we will be very closely monitoring how things are going and adapting as we go. Thank you for the fantastic support and understanding you have shown to us this past week and we are sorry for the disruption closing a school causes. I will continue to send regular updates to keep parents informed, but also to keep parents up to date on the many other issues the school is working on, such as transition for Year 6, GCSE options, exams and assessment and school events; all of which remain active on our agenda moving forwards.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Luhman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs J. Luhman
Headteacher