

Kingswood Nursery School  
Briar Road  
Watford WD25 0DX  
Hertfordshire

Nursery: 01923 672531  
Pre-School: 01923 679500  
www.kingswood.herts.sch.uk



Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware the government has announced some new measures to deal with COVID-19, including a change to its overall response, moving from the 'contain' to the 'delay' phase of its plan. As before, the advice remains that effective hand hygiene and using a tissue when coughing or sneezing are some of the most effective ways in which we can help reduce the spread of the virus. The school is continuing to do all that it can to minimise the spread with good hygiene and is following all the advice from Public Health and Herts County Council and as such we believe there is no additional risk to students and staff.

#### Self-isolation and staying at home

As you know the government has widened their advice on who should self-isolate for at least 7 days to include those that have:

- A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- A new, continuous cough

All our staff will be expected to follow this advice, and we ask you to ensure that your children do so too. If your children are absent from school because they are ill, please call the school on:

Pre-School 01923 679500

Nursery 01923 672531

In certain circumstances you may be advised by medical professionals to keep your child at home even if they are not unwell. If this is the case, please let us know and we will support your decision. I understand that parents are concerned about the risk of their children catching Coronavirus and that some may wish to keep children at home even though they have not had any medical advice to do so. However, we cannot agree to a child's absence for that reason alone and have been advised by HCC that we must mark this as 'unauthorised' in the registers. All children who are well enough to come to school are expected to continue attending as normal unless advised otherwise by Public Health England.

#### School Gatherings

**In light of the advice to avoid large public gatherings we have taken the decision to cancel the planned 'Mother's Day Creativity' open session on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March.**

We are also cancelling our trips to the care homes, that nursery children visit each Friday, as it seems inadvisable to be mixing a wide range of ages at present.

Baby Rhyme Time, Tuesday's singing sessions with Tina, also be cancelled until further notice.

#### The possibility of school closure

Some parents have asked whether we could choose to close the school now. If we are ordered to close the school by Public Health England, because there is a risk to children and staff we will do. If the government make a decision to close all schools we will do so, otherwise our intention is to stay open and operate as normal. The Government has made it clear it expects schools to remain open for the time being, unless public health advice has been given to close. This is based on the clear advice from the Chief Scientific Adviser to the

Government, Sir Patrick Vallance, on how best to manage this epidemic. We are sure that you will be supportive of this.

We are however preparing in case the school closes and we are looking at ways for managing some 'Home Learning'. We recognise that if closure is necessary this will have significant implications for many of our families in finding suitable childcare, but if instructed to do so this will be beyond our control.

**If 'Public Health England' decide to close all schools we will not charge parents for any pre-school fees, lunch club or any additional sessions booked.**

### Home Learning

- Staff will continue to send targets home via Tapestry – please regularly check and respond
- Our website has numerous ideas for Home Learning [www.kingswood.herts.sch.uk](http://www.kingswood.herts.sch.uk)
- Each of the 7 'Curriculum' areas has a section with 'How can parents and carers help'? Check these areas out for some great ideas

**The 'Literacy' area** has the following documents:

- [Bath, Book and Bed Leaflet](#)
- [Suggested activities to develop 'Fine Motor Skills'](#)
- [Supporting your child with letter formation](#)
- [Stages of Writing - Information for Parents](#)
- [Core Readers](#)
- [Top Tips for Sharing Books with your Child](#)
- [Becoming a Writer](#)

**The 'Maths' area** has the following documents:

- [How To Help Your Child be Epic at Maths - Even if you're not.....](#)
- [Making Maths Real Presentation](#)
- [Maths at Home Booklet](#)
- [Core Number Rhymes](#)

- We are sending you a paper copy of 'Challenges' that had been prepared for the Easter holidays.

### Keeping informed

Obviously, we will continue to provide updates as the situation continues to develop and would ask that you inform the school of any contact your family may have had with a person with symptoms or who has tested positive.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Bernice Jackson  
Headteacher

