



24th March 2020

Good morning,

I hope that everyone is keeping safe and following the guidelines that have been set out by the government.

I have been struck by the messages that have been on social media from our NHS staff about supporting them in doing their work by staying at home. If you haven't seen it then please watch. I am afraid we all need to do as we are told to enable our amazing services to do their job.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZFZhMpuNzk>

The more people that follow the guidelines the sooner life might return to some sort of normality.

Childcare

School is open to families who have absolutely **NO** other choice than to send their children to school. If you have an alternative solution then you **MUST** keep you children at home.

We are working on a skeleton staff due to staff being in isolation, having underlying health issues, childcare needs or showing signs of the Covid-19 virus themselves.

We are here to help parents who really **NEED** childcare and are key workers.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.

To ensure I have staff to cover children please ensure you keep in contact via admin@reay.lambeth.sch.uk

We understand that some families have found alternative childcare and do not need this from school. I urge you to do so if you can.

I will offer the support for as long as we are able to do so, including during what would have been the school holidays however I must ensure the safety of pupils and staff and if staff levels fall below a safe limit we may need to withdrawal the childcare offer. I sincerely hope that this will not happen.

Lambeth are also looking into hubs for keyworker children so they may be offered childcare at another setting.

Home learning

The staff are working hard to communicate with you via Twitter. Please do not send messages asking for more work. The teachers are working really hard to ensure the children have a variety of activities to do each day but this will not include everything that may be covered when the children are at school.

There will be ideas for work on each teachers Twitter feed plus work set on Mathletics, Purple Mash and work books sent home. You can also find useful websites on the school website.

You may want to put a timetable together for home, this will vary from home to home so do not feel you have to do what anyone else is doing. What works for your family may not work for someone else's. Also don't forget this is a great time for us to teach our children key life skills such as helping with the cooking, cleaning, helping to plan meals, learning to tell the time, tie their shoes laces etc

I had my son mopping the bathroom floor at the weekend so there are lots of ways to keep children busy.

As a family you can play board games, cards, charades etc together. Talking to each other, playing together is still learning but looks different to a normal school day.

We appreciate it is hard for parents and are sad that we cannot have the children in school but we all need to work together to make the best of what is a very difficult time.

Please follow @ReayPrimary and @MrsAndrewsReay along with your child's class teacher and other staff. We will try and share as many ideas as we can. Please be patient as we are all learning.

Free school meals

For the time being we are offering a packed lunch to our free school meal children. All families who are entitled have been called to see if they require a packed lunch. We will open the gates from 11.45-12.30 for parents to collect the food. We are asking you to follow the social distancing rules and keep two metres apart.

If you feel that you do not need the packed lunch please let us know as we had a lot that were left over yesterday.

I am hoping that over the next few days there will be a voucher system/increase to benefits to support families on Free School Meals and therefore I will not have to ask you to collect food from school as I appreciate it that this is not ideal.

Watch this space for further updates.

Keeping safe on social media

While we are using Twitter to communicate with parents we are concerned that some children have now set up accounts. Please be aware the Twitter is for aged 13 upwards. Staff will not be replying to messages sent by pupils on their own accounts. To keep our children safe online please make sure you know what they are doing online and I would recommend that you set times when they can use their devices.

We received a message from a pupil at midnight last night so please talk to your children about being safe online.

Lockdown

Now that we have been put on lockdown we know that this is going to be even more difficult for families.

The NSPCC are there to support children with any worries they may have

www.nspcc.org.uk

<https://www.headspace.com/meditation/kids>

<https://positivepenguins.com/>

I will keep you updated with changes as and when they come. I hope that you and your families stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

Best wishes

Caroline Andrews

Head Teacher.