



Monday 20th April, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we recently completed our fourth week since school closed, we thought we'd send a brief newsletter to update you on what we have been up to, what we know and also what we still don't know!

What we have been up to: As you know, we closed school on 20th March following the Education Secretary's poignant statement: *"After schools shut their gates on Friday afternoon they will remain closed until further notice."* This was a very strange day for all of us but it swiftly became one of prime organisation as we arranged for school to re-open on the Monday to the children of critical workers, should they need to utilise such provision and the most vulnerable children.

Despite it only being a month it feels much longer! There are very few children in school each day, which is strange but good, as we encourage people to be at home as much as possible in line with the Government's guidance to 'stay at home'. Teachers have been setting home learning via our KPS Twitter Feed and following feedback, Mrs Chapman now adds everything to the school website as well. Thank you for all your positive, kind feedback regarding the activities we have been setting. We are extremely mindful of ensuring that the children's mental well-being remains paramount in this surreal, strange time so we have endeavoured to choose activities that allow your children a level of independence, whilst following our Knavesmire characteristics of being creative and having fun. We are planning some changes for the home learning that we set from 27th April and we will send separate correspondence about this early next week. In the meantime, thank you for sharing your home learning via Twitter. We love seeing snapshots of the children's activities. Please remember that we are not expecting you to act as teachers at home. It's fine for children to do their own learning around something they are interested in that may not be from school, we just want them all to be happy in such uncertain times.

What we know: As a school, we receive daily emails from the Department for Education (DfE) to keep us updated on the government's response to coronavirus (COVID-19). The summarised information thus far is still: "All early years settings, schools and further education providers will remain closed until further notice, except for children of critical workers and children who are vulnerable. We will only re-open settings when the scientific advice indicates it is safe to do so." Guidance for parents and carers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

As soon as any information is shared with us about a planned reopening we will let you know. This may not be an immediate return to the normal school day: the press are speculating about possibilities such as staggered school days, reduced hours, shorter school weeks and restricted opening to only certain year groups. These would all be potential ways of easing the restrictions on daily life without raising the level of risk. Please bear with us on this however: we have only found out about most things through the daily

government press conference along with the rest of the country and this could well happen again over reopening!

Internet safety: We know that lots of people are spending more time online at the moment. For advice & support on internet safety, the websites below have useful information:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

<https://parentinfo.org/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

If you are concerned about any online activity please be aware that you can report this to CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command) via the following link, and the police will follow this up <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Keeping in touch: We have a skeletal staff on site during the week so the best way to contact school is to send an email directly to us at: Knavesmire.school@york.gov.uk and we will respond as soon as possible.

Birthdays: **LOTS** of you have had birthdays over the last few weeks and may have spotted your name on the weekly Twitter announcements that Mrs Chapman has kindly set up:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...								
Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Staff
Coco Orla	Brooke Emmie Milo Sophia Thomas	Frankie Frankie Iris Lenny Luca Mason Thomas	Afonso Daniel Jemima Jonah Josie Jude Ollie Romeo Ted	Alby Florence Haidar Kohei Lily Sophia Sylvie	Caleb Eva Bruno	Billy Laurence Robbie	Billy Finley Hana Isaac Jessica Nathaniel Ridley Samuel Wyatt	Mr Cooper Mrs Duncan Mrs Gage Miss Hastings Mr Poyner Mrs Taylor Mrs Thompson Miss Tomkinson Miss White

If you've got a birthday coming up, have a look on the KPS Twitter Feed each Monday morning!

Please keep checking out what we've been up to in school and in the community via our Twitter @KPSFeed. For example, Mr Cooper commenced a staff 'Bake Off' for the 98 residents of The Chocolate Works Care Home this week. We're sure they'll be delighted with the goods and the gorgeous card that the Friday team made with the key worker children today.

To conclude, if you feel your child or your family may fall into the 'vulnerable' category, please contact school via email. This may be regarding access to food banks, mental wellbeing, anything we can do to help, we'll do all we can.

Please take care everyone and stay safe!

Best wishes

Hannah Gibson & Adam Cooper