



MALCOLM SARGENT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Love To Learn

28 April 2020

Dear Parents

COVID-19 UPDATE

I very much hope that you and your families are keeping as well as possible during this unprecedented crisis.

You will undoubtedly be aware of considerable and ongoing speculation in the press regarding the formal "re-opening" of schools and so, as the coronavirus lockdown is set to continue, I am writing to update you on the status of our school.

Following the shut down on 20 March, the first stage of our plans have been to:

- Maintain the operation of the school for emergency childcare in the safest way possible for children, staff and keyworker families.
- Support our pupils whilst at home with their parents.
- Establish new working practices so that our capacity can meet the demand for childcare, which our keyworkers will require in the months ahead.

I can report that over fifty different keyworker families have made use of our school provision so far. Numbers of pupils have been very changeable, but are now usually between 10 and 20 different children a day. We are expecting these numbers to grow, as the demand on keyworkers increases. With several hundred keyworkers within our parental community, we are aware that considerable changes have been made to working routines to facilitate keeping so many children at home with you during this time. However, if childcare is required in the future then please let our admin team know as soon as possible so that we can arrange our staffing accordingly by contacting enquiries@malcolmsargent.lincs.sch.uk and using the subject line "CHILDCARE".

Furthermore, in conjunction with the directors and management of Acorn, we have helped preserve the community's childcare facility, by taking this within our school setting as the main Acorn site is mothballed. Acorn is able to continue to offer a full wrap around and nursery service albeit with a much reduced staff. If you require any of Acorn's services please contact us at enquiries@malcolmsargent.lincs.sch.uk and using the subject line "ACORN".

All of these school and Acorn services have continued to operate throughout the traditional school and Bank Holiday periods, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future with staff unanimously adopting new flexible working arrangements.

I have continued to be impressed and amazed with how quickly and effectively the teaching team has established online learning content. We have put together a continued education offer with a menu of lessons to support home learning, delivered with regular updates on the SeeSaw/Tapestry learning platforms (or by a paper-based alternative when this is not possible). The other critical aspect of this work is to maintain the school community network and contribute positively to pupil (and hopefully parent!) wellbeing during this time.

Staff members are continuing to work hard, whether in posting online lessons, or supporting behind the scenes, so it is a little frustrating to see reference to schools being "closed" in the media. We have certainly changed considerably during this time but never closed!

We have developed our risk assessments, which aim to reduce the risk of infection whilst our site is in operation. We have built upon the Government advice, which you will have seen, adapted as best we can for a school setting. We have shared this work with other local schools and this document is available for your information on our website at:

<https://www.malcolmsargentschool.co.uk/page/?title=Frequently+Asked+Questions&pid=154>

The risk assessment is reviewed and updated as necessary by each team leader as they run the school for the week but will require significant change in the event that a full re-opening is planned by the Government. To this end we have been told that no decision has been made yet on when the Government will re-open schools, and we have been reassured that this will only be done when the scientific advice indicates that it is the right thing to do; to be safe for pupils, safe for staff and safe for parents.

As such the current aims of our work as a school are:

- To continue to develop our ongoing support for home learning, and the community connection for families.
- To provide safe childcare for the pupils of key workers and those pupils who are most vulnerable.
- To give further detailed consideration of the factors required for when we are asked to move to a re-opening phase in line with Government advice. These factors are likely to include not only the safety of pupils, staff and the wider community but also the support required for emotional welfare and educational continuity when pupils return.

Miss Vickers is leading the teaching team in publishing their plans for new curriculum content to be released for the summer term. At the same time we are examining which benefits of this style of learning we can take forward with us into the future, whenever and however we do re-open.

I am immensely proud of how well the school community, including the whole of my staff team, have stepped up together to help, determined to play their part and do their best in this intervening period.

If you have any constructive comments, queries or suggestions then please do not hesitate to contact us via enquiries@malcolmsargent.lincs.sch.uk with the word "FEEDBACK" in the subject line.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

T J Revell
Principal