

Covid-19 Newsletter

Welcome

Good afternoon,

In these strange and difficult times, I intend to send a weekly newsletter to share any updates that I have received from the government, update you on the situation at school and also support in your efforts to maintain your children's learning and also their (and yours!) health and wellbeing.

As we enter this next phase of 'lockdown' there has been much discussion in the media about when and how schools should re-open. My hope is that we are given enough notice to ensure that everyone, students and staff, are able to return into a safe environment. We are taking this time to ensure a deep clean of the school is carried out and will be following all guidance when we do eventually get notice to re-open. In the meantime, I can only repeat my pleas that you follow the current guidance and ensure that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy.

As you now know, school is only open every day to any students that fall into these two categories:

1. Students whose parents are Key Workers – this list is widely available and has been sent out. Students should only attend school if no other care is possible. Home remains the safest place.
2. Students who have been **contacted by the school** because they fall into the vulnerable category.

I would ask that you contact us if you intend to send your child into school because they fall into one of these two categories and they have not been coming in already. This way we will be better prepared for any students that we have.

Reception is now only staffed every day between 8am-11 am.

All relevant resources, links and updates are on the school website.

Please feel able to email at any point if you have any queries and I will respond as quickly as I am able.

c.thomas@lhea.org.uk



Free School Meals

The free school meals scheme remains a huge frustration to me. As you know, I have been managing this process myself so that I know exactly what is happening and can only say how disappointed and sorry I am that the scheme does not work as effectively and quickly as it should.

I can assure you that I am ordering the vouchers as I need to and you will, eventually receive what you are entitled to - £15 per week per child.

If you are able to, I would support you in contacting your local MP to raise this as a concern.

How to support home learning



Show My Homework and Remote Learning

As Lynch Hill Enterprise Academy closes for what is likely to be a lengthy period of time, it is important that your son/daughter is able to continue learning at home (remote learning).

Show My Homework (SMHW) is a simple online programme where teachers upload details of learning activities and resources that should be completed at home. All students at LHEA have an account with SMHW and are encouraged to view this site on a daily basis.

Parents/carers have also been invited to set up an account.

The mobile app and notifications ensure parents/carers always know what homework their child has and when it's due.

Once logged in, the best way to view your child's homework is to click on the "calendar" block.

Clicking on a coloured bar reveals the detailed description of the activity and when it is due.

The SMHW app is available to download from Apple and Google.

- Open the app and type in "Lynch Hill Enterprise Academy"
- Type in your email/username and password.
- You will be taken to your child's To-do List

If any parent/carer needs help with setting up accounts, or if any student has either forgotten their password or has been experiencing trouble logging in, please contact Mr Arnold using l.arnold@lhea.org.uk

Any student who is not able to access online resources from home can come into school and collect paper copies of work which are all available in reception, arranged by Year group.

I appreciate that this will be a very strange time when it comes to keeping young people motivated and interested in school work. It will be very easy for it to feel like school has finished – but it hasn't and it is so important that they keep actively learning and working and developing their skills and knowledge. This can be done in many ways and the following page gives some general advice that you might find helpful.

Remote learning developments for the summer term

Thank you again for supporting your children to engage so consistently and positively with the work set by teachers during the first weeks of the school closure. As we move into the summer term, we will be continuing with the setting of tasks on Show My Homework (SMHW) as the main platform for the delivery of the curriculum as it has proven effective and efficient thus far.

In the meantime, the government is promoting a new website dedicated to students' online learning, called the **Oak National Academy**. Approximately 40 teachers from around the country have come together to create resources such as video lessons, worksheets and activities all of which can be accessed for free.

<https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom>

Our teachers may decide to upload some of the content to SMHW to enhance what already exists. But parents and carers may also like to have a look at the resources available – the Oak National Academy website is set out in a very user-friendly way with content organised by year group. The content is increasing week by week so it is worthwhile checking back every few days to see if more resources have been added.

An excellent website very much worth promoting is “BBC Bitesize”. This website has been around for many years now and contains lots of great learning content for students of all ages and abilities. The BBC has recently reorganised and expanded this website making it even better. The link for BBC Bitesize is:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

If there happen to be any issues with access to SMHW etc., please contact Lee Arnold, Assistant Headteacher (l.arnold@lhea.org.uk).

Coping at home

Last week I included information shared by the CCG; #coping website they developed in response to families who might need a little extra support – it contains lots of resources to help.

The three guides they are releasing are listed below. On the website [CCG#Coping](#) there is the option to sign up for the other guides which we will be coming out of the coming weeks.

#Coping – Family Life During the Lockdown (attached)

Contains information on high-quality resources to support family life and parenting, with advice on keeping children entertained, looking after everyone's mental health and where to turn for extra help, including confidential helplines.

#Coping – Five Ways to Wellbeing (adapted for lockdown)

Offers practical ideas on how to incorporate the NHS's Five Ways to Wellbeing into family life to support children and young people through these challenging times.

Includes a version for children of primary school age and one for those at secondary school.

#Coping – Young People's Guide

Lists lots of useful self-help apps and websites and a range of resources, including helplines, to support young people with their mental health.

Lockdown! No excuse for abuse Help IS available

Domestic Abuse National Helpline

0808 2000 247

In Slough (Hestia)

01753477352

Child abuse & neglect National helpline

0800 1111

In Slough (Slough Childrens Services Trust)

01753 875362

Adult and Elder abuse National helpline

08088088141

In Slough (Slough Borough Council Adult social care services)

01753 475111

If you think there has been a crime but it is not an emergency call the Police on 101

In emergencies dial 999



Slough Safeguarding Partnership