

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.

In addition to managing the different aspects of 'education under lockdown' my leadership team and I are starting to plan for life in school when we return. There is no guidance yet as to when this may be but I am very conscious that we will need to be operating in a different manner to that when the school was closed down. I can assure you that we will communicate any changes in school systems and processes well in advance of us re-opening.

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 website for this has undergone several upgrades but still seems to be very slow.

Early morning/late evening are good times to try.

The company have also sent out a new email address for parents and carers, who are experiencing difficulties which might get you a speedier response than having to contact school first.

freeschoolmealsparentscarers@edenred.com

How to support home learning



Show My Homework and Remote Learning

Can I remind you that staff are not necessarily setting work for individual lessons. At times they may set a longer piece of work, designed to last for the equivalent of several lessons.

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.

Making the most of home-learning

I hope you have been able to find a home-learning routine that works for you. The teachers at LHEA are very much aware of the need to provide a continuity of learning at home, but also that home-learning is very different to learning with a teacher and surrounded by peers in the classroom.

We will do our very best to ensure we are consistent and considerate in the work being set and the request for submission of work. But, **where possible**, please encourage your child to meaningfully engage with the activities that teachers are uploading to SMHW.

With learning not happening within a traditional lesson-by-lesson format comes an opportunity for students to advance and broaden their learning. Below are some links to websites that may develop your child's interests far beyond our regular curriculum. Students can develop their skills, read around subjects and deepen their understanding and enjoy exploring and expanding their horizons.

Resource	Link	Description
Speakers for Schools	https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/	Today's most inspiring figures across business, arts, politics etc donating their time to help inspire students to fuel their ambitions.
Rawhide	https://www.rawhide.org/blog/wellness/educational-websites-for-kids/	A parental guide to 17 educational websites for children of all ages:
TED Talks	https://www.ted.com/	A collection of short, powerful talks (max 18 mins) covering almost all topics — from science to business to global issues
The Dyson Challenge	https://www.jamesdysonfoundation.co.uk/	Can you skewer a balloon without popping it? Or make raisins dance? Dyson engineers have designed these STEM challenges to encourage inquisitive young minds to get excited about engineering.
Mental floss	https://www.mentalfloss.com/uk	Good for learning interesting facts from around the world, covering topics such as food, culture and science.
Instructables	https://www.instructables.com/	A useful website if you like making and fixing things yourself. Learn anything from how to make spaghetti ice-cream to how to fix a broken shelf.

COVID-19 related scams

It may seem unthinkable that people would attempt to profit from the Coronavirus outbreak. However, we're hearing stories that remind us that we all need to remain vigilant and aware of fraud risks, in both our work and home lives.

Every day, people and organisations are offering genuine support, and we all want to believe that everyone has good intentions and will 'do the right thing' to help those in difficult circumstances. Sadly, there have also been many reports of scams and an increasing number of fraudsters looking to take advantage of the current situation.

Here are a few scams to be aware of;

- **Online shopping:** High-demand items being offered such as hand sanitiser and PPE which are never delivered. Watch out especially for unsolicited messages offering questionably good deals.
- **Free school meals payments:** Text messages requiring that you provide your bank details in order to receive payments in lieu of free school meals whilst schools are closed. These may appear to be from Gov.UK. Please contact your school about FSM vouchers if you're uncertain.
- **COVID related fines:** Text messages indicating you have received a fine for leaving your home for non-essential purposes. Again these may appear to be from Gov.UK.
- **COVID related research:** Emails purporting to be from research groups or health organisations such as the-World Health Organisation conducting surveys or offering access to data – these are phishing tactics used to gather your information, or may request donations.
- **Lender loan scams:** Taking advantage of people's financial concerns, these are (often unsolicited) offers of quick loans where you pay an up-front fee but the loan is never received.
- **Pension 'liberation' and investments:** As above, if financial hardship occurs, people may become more vulnerable to callers or mail offering great returns on their pension savings for an up-front fee or investment. The Pensions Advisory Service (PAS) offers lots of information and guidance about avoiding scam schemes.
- **Working from home: Computer service fraud,** including pop-up messages and emails offering service claiming to fix your slow IT systems. You should never install any software, or grant remote access to your computer, as a result of a cold call or pop-up. This should not be an issue on WBC equipment which has protections in place, but it is worth remaining vigilant and taking care on your home systems.
- **Working from home: Mandate fraud,** where you may receive fraudulent email which appears to be from a senior manager, or from a supplier, requesting that you change some payment details and make an urgent payment. These requests are taking advantage of colleagues and suppliers not being as readily available to speak to as they would normally be. If in any doubt, do not act until the request can be verified, directly with the manager or supplier.

Also, please be mindful of the following:

- **Volunteering:** Where you have volunteered to help in your community, be careful with your own and others' personal and financial information, bank details etc. You should find guidance to support you to volunteer safely, for example on Community Support Hub.

Smiling Mind App

Practice your daily meditation and mindfulness exercises from any device with the Smiling Mind App



Smiling Mind is a unique tool developed by psychologists and educators to help bring balance to your life.

It can help reduce stress and anxiety and the app has different programmes for different age groups from as young as 5.

It also has longer meditations and ones to help with sleep.

It also has a specific section to help us deal with the current Covid-19 situation.

There is also a lot of helpful information and support on their website

<https://www.smilingmind.com.au>

We suggest 10 minutes a day.

