

18 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: COVID-19 – Acorn closure and changes to advice for families

Over the last few days the sense of community at King's Oak Academy has been overwhelmingly positive and I have felt proud of the staff and children in making strong preparations for what is to come.

For the remainder of the week (Thursday 19 and Friday 20 March) in order to preserve the safety of staff and students on site, the **Acorn will remain closed**. On the secondary site, we will be **open for the following students only**:

- Students in Year 7 who are not in household isolation
- Students in Year 11 who are not in household isolation
- Students whose parents are key workers and are not in household isolation - please see the guidance overleaf as to whom this applies.

Thank you to parents/carers who have enquired about how we will continue to support your child whilst they are learning from home on Thursday and Friday. Please see below for clarification/responses to commonly asked questions:

Learning

- Most families will have been given a paper pack of learning to use at home. Please send any questions about learning tasks to your class teacher using Seesaw.
- Reading books and paper learning packs (if you have not got one/would like to exchange a reading book) are available from The Hexagon on the secondary site. Please collect between **9.00 - 12.30pm or 1.30 - 2.30pm**.
- Tomorrow I will be finalising the Acorn approach to online/distant learning. The first days' learning will be available on Friday morning.
- We are very understanding of the current climate therefore our online offer for learning is designed to support you and your child. If you are unable to complete the learning activities due to illness and other family pressures, please communicate with your class teacher.
- We will be celebrating those children who complete distance learning.

Communication

- Seesaw - please continue to use Seesaw to communicate with teachers. Our teachers will do their best to respond within the normal working day (8am - 5pm) however please be aware that any messages sent outside of this time will not be responded to until the following working day.

TRUST RESPECT INSPIRE

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- School email - please continue to use this communication system. It will be responded to in a timely manner and teachers will forward specific questions from you to me where necessary.
- School number - please continue to call the Academy. On Thursday and Friday, the phone line will be diverted to the secondary site Main Reception team.
- Class teachers and key workers will be in touch with families regularly over the phone to ensure that we are doing everything we can to support you effectively

I know during this unprecedented time we will all continue to work together as a school and local community. Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully

Jo Thorn
Primary Phase Leader

Additional Information

The department for Education helpline to answer questions about COVID 19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

- *Phone 0800 046 8687*
- *Email DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk*
- *Opening hours 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)*

The Academy website has a page dedicated to providing access to Public Health England advice, this is updated daily.

<https://www.clf.uk/coronavirus-advice/>

Our current definition of a Key Worker (as of 18 March, pending clarify from the government tomorrow) is:

- Clinical staff employed by the NHS;
- Teachers, including further education teachers and Early Years/nursery teachers;
- Police officers and community support officers in specified forces;
- Frontline police staff (civilians) may also be eligible in some areas;
- Prison officers and some Prison Service staff in prisons in specified areas;
- Probation officers
- Local authority (LA) or NHS social workers
- Uniformed staff, in fire and rescue services;
- Armed forces personnel;
- LA environmental health officers/practitioners;
- Care workers;
- Food/supermarket delivery drivers and other workers