



**Langdon
Primary
School**

24 March 2020

LYNN PAYLOR SUTTON
HEADTEACHER

Dear parents and carers

Langdon Primary School
East Langdon
Dover
KENT
CT15 5JQ

Re: Coronavirus/Covid-19

Phone: 01304 852600

I've seen a lot of posts on social media of children and parents having fun learning at home and a lot of posts from parents who are saying they now know how hard teachers work! I wonder which camp you are currently finding yourself in?

Firstly, in this letter we have to say a collective thank you to the Langdon staff who are working hard to keep the school open and functioning for the children whose parents are critical workers. I am incredibly grateful to them for their bravery, professionalism and dedication.

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Secondly, given the advice for everyone yesterday to stay at home for the next 21 days, I must thank parents for not sending their children in if they can avoid it or for sending them only when essential during the day. I understand that the current guidance is that if one critical worker lives in a household, then a child can come to school but I am enormously grateful to those parents who have made changes to shift patterns to reduce the days or even half days needed or who have decided to home work in order that they can keep their children away from school and so reduce risk to other families and the school staff. I know that you are already considering this, but if you have any way to care for your child at home then please do so. The advice from the Department for Education remains, ***'Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.'***

The teachers are on the end of their emails and they can be contacted via SeeSaw too if you need help or advice or if you want to share any successes your child has had in their home learning. A number of parents have asked if we will want the work that the children are doing at home in to school to mark. The simple answer to that is no, we are asking parents to mark the work with their child and to talk through any problems that may have arisen. Please contact the teachers if you need help with this. I know that mathematics is often a sticking point because the way that we



teach mathematics now has changed in recent years. I have attached to this email, our school's calculation policy; parents who attended the mathematics workshop recently will be familiar with this and with the methods we teach - well done for getting ahead of the game, I bet you didn't think it would be useful quite so quickly!

Lots of online activities are beginning to spring up and we will point you in the direction of these as and when we have checked them for suitability. I would definitely direct you towards Joe Wick's daily PE lesson on YouTube. I'm sure there will be many more fit parents at the end of this confinement as a result of this half hour exercise lesson!

I can only apologise to those parents who have not yet received by post, their child's learning pack. These were sent on last week, as soon as we got the message that school closures were imminent. As with everything at the moment, the Royal Mail service is also under pressure and they are finding it harder to deliver mail according to usual timescales. Please be patient. If your child's pack hasn't arrived yet, spend the time with them doing things that you can to help them learn - read books, write stories, bake cakes, create things with Lego, KNex or Meccano, set up treasure hunts, play board games, make junk models, paint pictures, learn to sing new songs, exercise, dance or sing along with YouTube videos - try Joe Wicks and Gareth Malone to start with.

This time is unusual and you probably feel a bit fraught or anxious right now, but it is also precious. How many of us with children who are grown up have said, 'I wish I had had longer, it went to so quick' when we look back on their childhood. Take time to be with your children and to cherish the time you have with them whilst you are all at home. In my household, we've done things that ordinarily someone else would be doing on a day to day basis with Lucy and it is a privilege to be doing those things myself (although I am leaving the Joe Wicks video to dad!).

As always, contact me via email if you have any worries or questions and I will try to answer them as best I can.

Stay safe and healthy.

Yours sincerely

Lynn Paylor Sutton
Head Teacher