



Kenningtons Primary Academy

Newsletter
12th February 2021

We are now at the end of the first half term of 2021. Many of our nursery children have now returned to school and it is a joy to see them trotting up to nursery every day. I am sure that the normality has been welcomed by children and their families.

It was very interesting to read the responses to the survey regarding remote learning. Thank you for taking the time to complete this. I have shared your positive comments with staff and as you are aware we have reduced the amount of work required as this was becoming difficult for many families to manage. I sincerely hope that we will not be doing this for too much longer.

Thankfully our school remains COVID safe and we have still not had to shut any bubbles this half term. The staff continue to test twice a week and any new children joining the provision have a test as well. I am so grateful for the support from the parents and staff in this endeavor. I know that testing is very unpleasant, so thank you for enduring this.

The holiday is certainly well deserved for pupils, parents and staff. I hope that everyone makes the most of a week free of remote learning. Please try to ensure that your children stay away from screens and get some real experiences, as far as is possible.

After half term I will be listening intently to the COVID briefing, in which the Prime Minister will be outlining a road map out of lockdown. As soon as we have a plan for reopening, I will be sharing this with you. We want the children to return, but in a safe way, to protect pupils, their families and staff.

Please stay safe and enjoy the half term.

Mrs Sawtell-Haunæs

The Inset Day on Monday 22nd Feb has been re-scheduled and will now be a normal School Day.

The following Policies have been reviewed and updated on our Website:

- Admissions Policy for 2022-2023
- Admissions Policy for Nursery for 2022-2023
- Remote Education / Home Learning Policy



Kenningtons Website:

www.kenningtonsprimaryacademy.co.uk

Important Information for Parents / Carers:

If you wish to get in touch with the school, please do so via our enquiries address;
enquiries@kenningtons.thurrock.sch.uk





FREE EVENT

Virtual Walk On Line Roadshow for Parents and Carers

9/12/2020 18:30 till 20:30 or 25/02/2021 18:30 till 20:30

Suitable for Parents/Carers who want a better understanding of today's virtual world and Online Exploitation of Children and Young People.
Not Suitable for under 18 years.

The Two Johns are presenting this workshop. It will look at the online world and how our young people are using it. It will include content in regards to favourite apps and games and it will look at the dangers young people face not only from predatory bad people but also how they are being groomed in games which ranges from receiving gifts for the younger player (Primary age) and being groomed on servers for the older players (Year 5 and secondary).

The workshop will look at bullying across all age ranges and explore the use that gangs make of the online world. It will also look at sexting and how the wrong reaction from a parent can destroy family relationships forever.

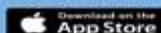
To attend this training, go here (see below) and follow instructions:

<https://www.thurrocklscp.org.uk/lscp/training-event-information/walk-online-roadshow-for-parents-carers-and-professionals-free-event>



Please get the **free Studybugs app** for reporting your child's absence due to illness.

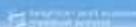
<https://studybugs.com>



Report sickness, receive guidance, help improve children's health
See what illnesses are going around
Secure system, all communications encrypted



Working in partnership with:



Studybugs

We're pleased to announce that Kenningtons is introducing a new, more efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence due to illness, called Study Bugs. If you haven't already, please get the free Study Bugs app, or register on the Study Bugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child's ill and unable to attend school.

[Get the app or register now](https://studybugs.com/about/parents) (<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>)

Top 3 reasons to use Study Bugs

1. It's integrated with our systems so we know right away if your child is unaccounted for.
2. It's quick and easy to register and use and automatically reminds you to keep us posted.
3. You'll be helping the NHS and other public health organisations [improve children's health](https://studybugs.com/about/schools). (<https://studybugs.com/about/schools>)



Fabulous Feedback



Morning Kenningtons

Just wanted to send an email thanking you all for what you're doing to help our children not fall behind. A massive thank you to Mrs Johnson who is [REDACTED] teacher and she has just been amazing. It's so lovely to know that even through all this, I hear Daisy laughing at some of the videos with Mrs Johnson and to know that even with things being so different, she can still interact with the kids enough to make them laugh makes my heart so happy. A credit to you all.

I also wanted to thank you for today, Wellness Wednesday. Its things like this make me so proud that you are the school that my daughter goes to. Little things like today go so far for parents/carers.

Keep safe all

Thanks

Good afternoon all,

I just wanted to say how happy myself and my boys are that the school have given us a day off from the normal home schooling work for Wellbeing Wednesday. Hearing this news yesterday really made my day and so far has really made my day a lot easier, allowing me to concentrate on my work and have a good catch up. I think we all really needed this! It would be nice if we could keep every Wednesday as Wellbeing Wednesday during the lockdown, it really does help to re-charge the batteries and give us parents and the children a nice little mid-week break so we can get focused again for the rest of the week.

I hope you all are able to enjoy your day too.

Good afternoon, I just wanted to email to say what a lovely day it has been today, waking up to see that we could have a day of something different was just what we needed. We had a lovely 3 mile walk, did colouring and then painted some clay models we made the other day. Mrs Johnson has been working so hard to keep the children interested with the work and it's been great. [REDACTED] tried really hard the last 2 weeks, with no wobbles which had been a relief to us at home. Thank you all for all the hard work you have to do in these strange times.

In addition to the teaching videos, we found marking and feedback, engagement between staff and children very beneficial and encouraging. Personally, we treat it like a normal school day for my child with lunch break and regular short breaks in between. Plus, the routine is good for easier transition when they eventually return to school. The flexibility of daily work submission has worked really well for us as it allowed us balance work and other family commitments. THANK YOU!

I can't tell you how impressed we have been with the remote learning and how much the boys are enjoying it. You are doing a fantastic job and I couldn't be happier and more grateful for it. THANK YOU!

Everything the school have done has been amazing! Could not fault it at all!

[REDACTED] has coped really well with the home learning and the lessons he has been set to date. It has made such a difference to [REDACTED], being able to see his teacher in the videos and engaging in the live meetings he has had with Mr Newland. I also think the feedback [REDACTED] has received from his teachers has been great for him to read and reply where necessary.

[REDACTED] found the live guided reading session very fun and helpful because he could get support from his teacher straight away and see his friends again. The positive feedback from his teacher and TA are encouraging. Also, being able to borrow a laptop from school was really helpful. Before that, [REDACTED] and I

had to share a laptop and now his learning will not be interrupted. Finally, the well-being Wednesday was a great idea. [REDACTED] enjoyed his relaxing activities with his family. Thank you so much for all the hard work.

I'm so pleased that the lessons are pre-recorded and we can do the work in our own time. It means we can work it around other commitments.

I selected 'too much' but only because we have been focusing on Reading Writing and Maths for [REDACTED] and so foundation subjects have been left behind on days he is learning at home.

We are very grateful for the school's efforts as we are aware of how hard it is to prep all this work. Thank you all.



Make a Difference

Foster for Thurrock and make their lives better

#MakeADifference

Thurrock Fostering are looking for new or experienced Foster Carers and you do not have to live in Thurrock to be a Foster Carer for us.

If you have been thinking about fostering for a while or are an existing Foster Carer looking for new challenges and experiences, join one of our upcoming virtual information sessions to find out more including our new and very competitive fostering allowances.

These information sessions are an opportunity to view a short presentation, chat with the Fostering Recruitment Team and with current Foster Carers who will be able to answer any of your questions.

Please email fostering.adoption@thurrock.gov.uk to confirm which information session you would like to join and the team will send you the online link for your chosen date.

- **Friday 12 February 2021**
10am to midday - presentation will start at 10.05am
- **Monday 15 February 2021**
6pm to 8pm - presentation will start at 6.05pm
- **Saturday 6 March 2021**
10am to 11.30am - presentation will start at 10.05am
- **Wednesday 24 March 2021**
10am to midday - presentation will start at 10.05am
- **Tuesday 13 April 2021**
6pm to 8pm - presentation will start at 6.05pm

For additional dates visit thurrock.gov.uk/fostering

Find out more information on the great benefits of becoming a Thurrock Foster Carer by visiting thurrock.gov.uk/fostering

Freephone 0800 652 1256

 facebook.com/thurrockfostering



 thurrock.gov.uk