



Kenningtons Primary Academy

Newsletter
29th January 2021

We have now come to the end of four weeks of remote learning. I am sure, like me, you were very disappointed to hear from our Prime Minister, that school will not be opening after February half term. I am thinking carefully about what reopening will look like and, as soon as we get the go ahead, I will be able to share this with you.

We continue to monitor the provision for remote learning and the engagement levels from pupils. The vast majority of pupils and families are doing an excellent job, under what must be very difficult circumstances. I spoke to several families and children this week and it was wonderful to hear how you are getting on. I was very impressed with how positive the pupils were and hearing from them what it is like to be a remote learning pupil. It really made me realise how much we miss the children at school, and they were very clear about how much they miss being in school.

For the families who are not engaging as well as we would like, we will continue to contact you to encourage you to support your children. Please don't be cross with the staff that are contacting you; they are just doing their job and really do care about your children missing out.

Teachers have been working hard by adding to their 'remote teaching toolbox' some small group live sessions. Please make sure that your child turns up to their session, and on time! Feedback is showing that the children have really enjoyed seeing their teacher (and friends) so I have encouraged the teachers to increase the number of sessions. The 'invitation' to the live group will be in the list of assignments on Google Classroom.

In school the key worker children are getting on well and thankfully, as of writing this piece, we have not had to shut any bubbles. The staff in school are having regular COVID tests and the pupils attending will be having another test. This all helps to keep school safe and gives valuable information to the Government about the prevalence of the virus.

Next week our nursery children will have the opportunity to return to school on a part time basis. Nursery could have been open for the last 4 weeks, but the number of positive cases in the locality was too high for this to be safe. We look forward to seeing these children in school.

I hope that after half term we will have a clearer picture regarding reopening, but in the meantime please stay safe. It is only by following the rules carefully that lockdown will come to an end.

Mrs Sawtill-Haynes
Headteacher

Applying for a Nursery Place?

If your child was born between 1st September 2017
and
31st August 2018, you must apply for their nursery
place for September 2021.

Applications must be made by **TODAY** for
Admissions in September 2021.

**Applications received after the closing date are
treated as late applications.**

<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/primary-school-admissions/applying-for-primary-school-place>



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

- SEN Information Report
- SEND Policy
- Exclusion Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Medication Policy
- Sports Premium Report
- Admissions Policies
- Collective Worship Policy
- Online Safety 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.thurrocklsc.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.

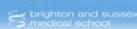
<https://studybugs.com>



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 Studybugs. If you haven't already, please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs 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 Studybugs

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



I just wanted to say a very big thank you to Miss Mellor. [redacted] loves seeing the videos with Miss Mellor in. Miss Mellor's support when I was worried [redacted] wasn't learning has been really helpful and given us the boost we needed. I've been very lucky that both my children have had Miss Mellor teaching them in their first year at school. What a credit to Kenningtons Miss Mellor is.

I would just like to say a massive thank you to Miss Gingell. We hit a brick wall this week, motivation was low and there was tears from both myself and [redacted]. Miss Gingell took the time to message back to my concerns and assured us both not to worry. [redacted] was also lucky enough to take part in a live phonics class, it was just the boost [redacted] needed seeing [redacted] friends and teacher live on screen and a bit of normality of feeling like [redacted] was in an actual class lesson. Thank you for all your hard work

Good Afternoon

I just wanted to say that the first lock down was such a struggle for home schooling for me but this time round I literally look forward to Mrs Beard and Mr Newlands voices coming from [redacted] laptop in the morning and [redacted] seems focused on what [redacted] is doing. I don't know how they manage to teach online AND for the key workers children in school but they are doing an amazing job in these horrid times.

Thank you so much for the voice note, [redacted] was so overwhelmed when [redacted] heard this. You have made [redacted] day special. In general, [redacted] is so pleased when I read the feedback received from yourself and Mrs Cachia, however today was very personal, his eyes were glowing. I think this voice note has given [redacted] extra power to complete [redacted] homework daily and [redacted] felt rewarded. I would like to thank you also for everything you are doing daily for my [redacted], with your guidance our [redacted] has developed to be much confident.

I just wanted to say how brilliant Mrs Johnson is doing with the remote learning, [redacted] is staying as engaged as I think is possible at this time and I'm really enjoying getting an insight into their school day.

I just wanted to provide a bit of feedback regarding the home learning that is given out to my children, who are in Nursery and Reception. I just wanted to say that we are really impressed with the way teachers are preparing the work and taking time to upload videos and providing lots of varied learning content. I know this must be a very difficult time for the school and the teachers, especially with the short notice you all had but I personally think you have all done a really great job at keeping our children going and trying your best to teach them the things they would normally be learning at school.

As a working parent I do find it quite stressful some days to do the home schooling but you have been so flexible with us parents and I really do appreciate that. I am very grateful that my children can attend school two days a week and I want to also thank the support teachers that are still in schools helping the children that are attending, I know my children are very much enjoying being able to still attend school for the two days.

I think Kenningtons has done a great job overall and compared to other schools you are not putting too much pressure on us parents by setting us timescales of when the work needs to be submitted and demanding our children attend daily morning zoom calls.

Thanks so much to you all.