

Newsletter

Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you all for ensuring such a high level of engagement from children this week. We continued to be so, so impressed with the routines and structures that you have put in at home to ensure that children are watching the videos, completing the learning (and what a fantastic standard we have had from so many children) and taking part in the assemblies and small group sessions. As with many aspects of life, don't compare yourself to other families (you never really know what is going on in another household—whatever their Facebook page may lead you to believe) as long as you, as a parent, can say you've done your best then you have our support and respect.

The assemblies and small group sessions have gone very, very well. Children have thoroughly enjoyed being able to see and speak with their teacher and other children in their class. Attendance at assemblies has ranged from 60% to 100%, with an average attendance of 87%. Thank you for ensuring that children are on time, properly dressed (i.e. not in pyjamas), attentive, well behaved and listening carefully to the instructions e.g. muting and unmuting at the correct time. And thank you to parents for being sensible about safeguarding matters that ensure the safety of your child and other children in the class. Regarding safeguarding if you do ever have any concerns about a member of our school community please do phone me or contact me on dsl@kingslea.org.uk

We are planning for parents' evening in the next few weeks. You will find a letter attached with this newsletter containing full details and it will obviously be virtual again.

We very close to having to prioritise and/or ration places at #kingsleacares. On average we have three times as many children attending as we had in the summer term. I know that you understand that at Kingslea we try to go above and beyond to support our community however in this instance our capacity to offer places is limited by both staffing and space. It gives me no pleasure whatsoever so warn parents that going forward we may not be able to offer children a place for everyday requested. Thank you for only requesting a place when you absolutely have no other choice.

Thank you KLASS and now, the Department for Education for a delivery of Chromebooks. These have all been loaned out but do contact us if you are struggling with access to technology at home.

After the summer lock-down of 2020 we thought it would be a good idea to upgrade our internet at school. Little did we know that the date we'd be given by the utility company for the switchover is during this lockdown! We will do everything we can to minimise any disruption to learning but the final outcome should be a higher quality connection for all of us.

As always thank you for your pragmatic, can do this attitude.

Alexis Conway and the Kingslea Team.

Online Maths Competitions

Years 3 to 6 can take part in the **Sumdog** competition this week which runs until Thursday 28th January at 8.00pm. In previous competitions, some classes managed to reach the Top 20 and we always have lots of children in the Top 50, with some regulars in the Top 10. Children are allocated a maximum of 1000 questions to complete over the week. However many correct answers they score are combined to make a class average. Happy playing!

For years 2 to 6, every Tuesday at 2.00pm we will have a half-hour live session on **TTRockstars** where children can play against their classmates as well as other children across the school (and world!). To access this, simply login to TTRockstars at 2.00pm each Tuesday. To play against classmates, go to the "Arena" and click into Wembley. To play against other people in the school (or the world), go to the "Festival" and click into Glastonbury. As "Festival" is a worldwide game, children appear under their Rock Names to protect identities. Children can play in the other games in Festival and Arena if they'd like, but Wembley and Glastonbury is where most Kingslea children and staff will be playing. If you're not sure where to go, start in the Arena in Wembley.



Lateral flow tests for school staff

It was announced at the beginning of this week that lateral flow testing (rapid tests) would be introduced into primary schools for all school staff, with testing at Kingslea starting next week once the tests have arrived. There are no plans for the use of lateral flow tests on primary aged children.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 do not display symptoms - they are asymptomatic. It is believed that regular testing will help to break the chains of transmission of the virus.

The speed and convenience of the tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have had a test.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A MEMBER OF STAFF TESTS POSITIVE?

Public Health England and DfE are notified.

Close contacts would be identified and told to isolate at home

The member of staff who tested positive would be required to book a laboratory PCR test to confirm the results of the lateral flow test

If the PCR test result is negative - all close contacts can stop their isolation (assuming they have not developed symptoms of COVID-19). If a close contact develops symptoms in this initial period of isolation they are to follow the stay at home guidance here: [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-infection)

If the PCR test result is positive - all close contacts must continue their period of isolation and follow the stay home guidance. [Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-confirmed-coronavirus-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person)

If a member of staff tests positive using a lateral flow device, the school will carry out it's contact tracing protocols as normal. It is highly likely that any children or staff, that have been working alongside the member of staff that tested positive, would be asked to isolate at home. We will aim to carry out the lateral flow testing at a time of day e.g. in the evening, that allows the school to respond appropriately to a positive result and give parents as much warning as possible that your child will need to isolate at home.

If the system works as intended, depending on the infection rate, more positive cases will be identified therefore bubbles of children isolating at home could become more frequent. This is something all parents must be prepared for. Currently this will only affect child in #Kingsleacares but could impact on all families when we return.

So far at Kingslea we have had two members of staff test positive and one child. We believe all caught the virus in their home environment and none passed it on to anyone else at school.

Although staff are being tested - we will continue to maintain all of our strict protocols within school to ensure the safety of our community. The rapid testing of school staff is just another tool to help us gain greater information on the virus and ultimately make schools even safer.

Thank you for your continued support.

Anxious Online Learners?

A number of you have been in touch regarding anxiety and online learning and we have given you support and guidance. This may be a useful, free webinar being run by Creative Education on January 26th 2021. You will need to book a place.

https://www.creativeeducation.co.uk/product/how-to-support-anxious-online-learners-26th-january/?mc_cid=52f1993acf&mc_eid=0ae8b7a057