



DOWNHAM PREPARATORY SCHOOL AND MONTESSORI NURSERY

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Newsletter to Prep & Nursery School Parents 17th March 2020

Coronavirus Updates:

Sports Fixtures

These have all been cancelled or postponed until further notice.

Swimming

There will be no more swimming this term. We will send out new advice after the Easter Holidays.

School Trips

These have now all been cancelled this term. We will re-schedule, where possible, when the Government lifts restrictions.

Billionaire Boy

Last night the Government announced that theatres would be closing. This trip will not now go ahead. We will be contacting the theatre as soon as possible to request a refund; but we have been informed this morning that the theatre, including the box office, will be closed for the next 14 days. We have also cancelled the coach. We will definitely be refunding the transport cost element of this trip and hopefully the theatre will agree to refund the ticket money in due course.

Schools Make Music

The concert at the Corn Exchange, King's Lynn, on 24th March, has now been cancelled. The Corn Exchange will refund tickets in due course, but please be patient, as it will inevitably take some time.

New Guidelines to Prevent the Spread of the Virus

If you or anyone in your family has a continuous cough or a temperature, the main symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. This is to allow for the incubation period of the virus and for those who are affected to then be isolated for a period of 7 days after the onset of symptoms. If anyone in the household starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.

The advice is also for everyone to avoid unnecessary contact, in clubs, libraries, social gatherings, pubs, restaurants, etc., and to avoid gatherings of any size.

Anyone over 70, or with an existing health problem, (explained yesterday as those with a health problem that would be recommended to have the flu vaccine), should self-isolate. This isolation, we were warned, could last for up to 12 weeks, or more.

Schools have not yet been told to close, but this could change rapidly.

We have been, and are, taking every precaution. We clean all surfaces with anti-bacterial sprays and we constantly remind all children to frequently wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds.

We would ask you all to follow the latest guidelines and keep your child at home for 14 days if they have a cough or high temperature; any siblings would have to stay at home too. This is in line with the latest advice, for the whole household to self-isolate for 14 days.

Please could you also inform the school immediately if you or any of your family has had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with Coronavirus, as we would have to contact the health authorities for their advice on procedures and/or school closure.

School Lunches

With the possibility of a school closure at short notice, and with a few more children absent this week, our school cooks are anxious to minimise any food wastage. Therefore, the children might have a slight variation to the menus this week (e.g. the choice of fresh fruit). Also, the special Easter menu planned for next Thursday 24th, will now, unfortunately, not be possible. Children who usually have a packed lunch and have ordered this Easter lunch, will be refunded. Children who usually have a hot lunch will have the normal meal planned for that day.

Studying at Home

We have compiled a list of websites, which provide curriculum based learning, for all Key Stages and children in the EYFS. Many of these have previously been available through subscription only, but have now offered parents free access during this pandemic.

We are sending you the list now as some parents have already decided they need to keep their children at home. Many have relatives in the high-risk category and are concerned about their children bringing the virus into their homes.

If the Government orders schools to close, we will also send home homework and tasks, prepared by our own teachers, for the children to complete.

Useful Websites

See below:

Useful websites and apps for parents in the event of school closures

Spelling Shed <https://www.spellingshed.com/> Free 14 day trial available

Twinkl <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/> Input code UKTWINKLHELPS when asked for offer code to access free resources

Oxford Owl <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/> Includes phonic, reading, spelling and maths activities

Education City <https://www.educationcity.com/free-resources/?age=&month=> Includes free resources for English, Maths, Science, Computing, French and Spanish

Topmarks <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/> Includes resources for all subjects across all ages.

ICTgames <http://ictgames.com/> Free English and Maths games

Prodigy Maths Game <https://play.prodigygame.com/> Maths game- will need to create a free account

White Rose Maths <https://whiterosemaths.com/> They are currently developing resources for use in event of closure. To be released week commencing Monday 16th March

Classroom Secrets <https://classroomsecrets.co.uk/kids/> Free resources for English and Maths

Times Tables <https://www.timestables.com/> Times table games

Cool Maths Games <https://www.coolmathgames.com/>

My Mini Maths <https://myminimaths.co.uk/> Various Maths activities to print

Khan Academy <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

TTS <https://www.tts-group.co.uk/home+learning+activities.html> Free home learning activity book to download at home. Currently only for Years 1 and 2 but other Year groups are being developed and will be available soon.

Sumdog https://www.sumdog.com/user/sign_in Children should have their own logins. In the event that they are unable to remember their logins, they can play as a guest.