



FEDERATION

The Grinling Gibbons and Lucas Vale Federation
Executive Headteacher: Lesley Ann Jones BA Hons

19th March 2020

Coronavirus update for Parents/Carers

Dear All,

Most of you will now know that yesterday, the government has ordered schools in the UK to close on Friday afternoon until further notice for almost all children. In order to help the country fight the virus but keep functioning, only our most vulnerable children and the children of key workers will be allowed to attend school. In light of this, we would like to make plans for the next few weeks.

I realise this is distressing news for the entire school community and will leave many anxious, but I want to reassure everyone that we have spent a great deal of time preparing for this announcement. I feel very confident we have everything in place to ensure that we continue to support you and your children in the coming weeks and months.

This summer's SATs and other public exams will not go ahead. Our pupils have worked so hard preparing for their exams and the uncertainty about what arrangements the government will put in place will no doubt cause a great deal of anxiety. The government says it will work with schools to ensure students get the qualifications that they need. As more details are released we will be doing everything we can to help students understand what it means for them.

Over today and tomorrow we will plan for how we can offer a service to look after the children of key workers and other children that the government wants us to keep in school. If your child is identified as 'vulnerable', please expect the school to contact you before the weekend to discuss arrangements for next week.

If you are a keyworker (NHS staff, police, teacher, essential delivery drivers) and intend to keep sending your child to school, please could you email us by lunchtime today at admin@lucasvale.lewisham.sch.uk letting us know what your job is. We will then be able to let you know about the arrangements for next week.

All staff have worked tirelessly this week to ensure we have 'home learning' arrangements in place. Children already have their math's books which they can continue to work through; we have other learning in a pack for children to take home. You can also access more learning on the school's website via these links and many other links which will be on the website by the end of the day:

<https://classroomsecrets.co.uk/free-home-learning-packs/>
<https://www.robinhoodmat.co.uk/learning-projects/>



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We will work hard to make sure this is a seamless transition for the children. We will be talking to the children about what will happen next to help them to make sense of it all, keep them calm and reassure them.

I am sure that you will join me in thanking all our fantastic staff for working so hard at this difficult time.

I want to thank you all for working with us and your continued support for the school at this time. Updates will be on the website so please keep checking.

We hope that you all stay healthy and happy, and that this time with your children will help to support them through any anxiety they may have regarding the virus.

Yours faithfully
Ruth Cobblah
Head of School