

20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Coronavirus Closure**

I am writing to inform you that, following instructions from the Department of Education, Lime Academy Larkswood will be closed from Friday 20th March at 3:30 until further notice except for selected key worker children and identified vulnerable children and children who have Educational Health Care Plans.

Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. If you are able to meet your childcare needs at home – please do this in the first instance. The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Families of vulnerable and EHCP children will be contacted directly by the school.

### **Key Worker Child Care**

The Department has published a list of who this applies to. If you fall into any one of the categories and haven't contacted the school, please email the school directly or click this link [school@larkswoodlime.london](mailto:school@larkswoodlime.london) to let us know. The school is providing this facility but must follow the lists and criteria rigorously due to staffing considerations as well as ensuring capacity for our most vulnerable children.

We have limited places available and our own staff shortages may further reduce our ability to safely operate. As such, we have rigorously vetted and reviewed every application for additional childcare received, and will contact parents who will be receiving child care by Friday 20 March to confirm arrangements.

### **Free School Meals**

For children eligible for free school meals we will be providing a packed lunch each day next week that can be collected from the main school office between 12-2pm. Once the Government voucher scheme is in place we may convert to that and will text relevant parents with any updates. If by chance you feel you are eligible and have not been contacted, please email the school directly.

### **Communication**

To avoid any confusion, the school will be updating parents via the school website only, this is to ensure communication around closures and openings is consistent and controlled. Please keep checking our school website at: [www.larkswoodlime.london](http://www.larkswoodlime.london) for updates.

### **Home Learning**

Whilst acknowledging that these measures are necessary to combat the spread of the Coronavirus, we also recognise the negative impact it could have on children's learning. Whilst the schools are closed, teachers and staff have been set up for home and remote learning which is still the expectation for the children. The school are well prepared through our online platform called Seesaw, and cloud-based software so children can still learn at home through programmes such as Bug Club, MyMaths, Timestables Rockstars etc.

#### **Lime Academy Larkswood**

70–72 New Road, Chingford, London E4 8ET **Tel:** 020 8529 4979 **Email:** [school@larkswoodlime.london](mailto:school@larkswoodlime.london)

The Lime Trust, trading as Lime Academy Larkswood is a company limited by guarantee and exempt charity.

**CN:** 09297519 **RO:** 70–72 New Road, London E4 8ET.

Each year group has therefore prepared a programme of home learning activities that we are expecting each child to complete during the period of closure. The details and expectations of what children need to do each week are detailed in their individual packs which are available from the office from 1pm today, and also online via the Seesaw app. The school office is also open next week to collect your child's pack.

#### Every Year Group now has:

- **Topic home learning:** This learning is project based, and will mainly be learning that is linked to a story, or theme, that encompasses a range of subject areas, and will be uploaded weekly to the website & on Seesaw on Fridays. This learning can be completed at your own pace, and is due in by Fridays where possible, however, we will be flexible on this. It may be that you complete some, most or all of the suggested learning, and your child's teachers will give further guidance on this weekly.
- **Online learning platform/app:** You will have also received a document this week which details how you can access Seesaw – our new online learning platform. Teaching & learning activities will be uploaded to Seesaw every Friday by the class teachers. Pupils can upload their learning, and this will be responded to by the teachers weekly. This online learning is child friendly, easy to access and allows the children to communicate with their teacher (and vice versa) about their learning. Week 1 will be uploaded later today.
- **Resource pack:** For Reception to Year 6, a resource pack will be available to collect from the school office today between 1pm and 4pm. If your child has attended school today, they will be given this to take home at the end of the school day. Children who will be attending school next week - your pack is in your classroom.
- This pack should be kept safe as it will be crucial to all learning during this time. The learning uploaded to Seesaw may refer the children to complete certain activities, or pages, in their given pack. Please follow the set instructions given by the teachers on Seesaw. E.g. *Teachers may direct your child to complete 'pages 16-18 of their pack in Maths on place value'*.

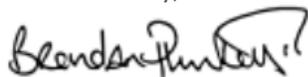
Please note that teachers will be monitoring pupils' online activity regularly to ensure that they are completing set tasks.

**Easter Closure** For the children still attending school, the school will be closed for the Easter Break, from Friday 3 April at 3.30pm (no longer Thursday 2 April at 1.30) and will re-open on Monday 20 April as normal. More information will be given over the coming weeks to these families on how we can support you and your children during this time. Should the parents who have been allocated a place at our school have any changes to their holiday childcare or change in work arrangements, then please contact the school at : [Anisa.Chohan-Patel@larkswoodlime.london](mailto:Anisa.Chohan-Patel@larkswoodlime.london)

If you have any questions or concerns which need to be addressed urgently, you can always email the school and these will be passed onto a relevant member of staff where possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,



Brendan Plunkett  
Head teacher