



Harbinger School
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Dear Parents and Carers,

School Update – 23/03/2020

Firstly, a huge thankyou for all the kind words and support offered over the past week. Harbinger staff have worked tirelessly to keep the school open and plan the best support we can. I am proud of how quickly they responded to the rapidly changing situation and did so with care and compassion. I will keep you updated of changes regularly but will try not to swamp your inbox with letters!

The school closed on Friday 20th March. We will provide care to our key workers who work at the forefront of the battle against Coronavirus this week. I was truly moved learning about the work some of our parents do in the NHS, social care and emergency services – thankyou for keeping us safe. We would like to emphasise that the government advice is to keep your children at home and only access this service if you cannot provide care for your child. I will be in touch later this week with more formal details of how to access this offer in the long-term.

We will also remain open for some of our families who are supporting children with individual learning needs or require specialist support and we have contacted you all directly. We are awaiting news from Tower Hamlets with regards to the proposed free school meals support and I will send out this information when I receive it. Thankyou to all the parents who picked up the learning packs last week – I will be in the office between 8am and 9am every day next week if you haven't picked them up yet. If you are self-isolating let me know your address and I will try to drop it off if you live locally.

The rest of our learning has moved on-line – teachers will e-mail work first thing in the morning and will be available to answer questions and respond to completed work. Online learning is a new challenge for us and I am so proud of my team who have prepped activities and lessons over the past week.

Self-isolation is incredibly challenging and we know the next few weeks will be a period of adjustment for everyone. I would therefore like to share a few ideas. With you.

- Jubeda has posted a suggested timetable on our website – having a structured day provides a combined sense of purpose and clarity for everyone
- Make sure you include a keep-fit activity in your routine. Joe Wicks is running an online PE lesson every day at 9.00am on his youtube channel: www.youtube.com/thebodycoachtv
- Include story time. Audible have made their childrens books free: <https://stories.audible.com/discovery>

There are many other amazing sites out there to support your children and family life during this difficult time and we will continue to share them with you.

If you need anything please get in touch with me at admin@harbinger.towerhamlets.sch.uk and I will do my best to help. Please stay safe and thankyou again for all your support.

Best wishes,
Andy



Headteacher: Andy Smith
Deputy Headteacher: Matthew Warhurst
SBM: Mai-Anh Dien