



Katherine
Warrington
School

HEADS UP

Newsletter no. 15

25th September 2020

First and foremost, let me deal with where we are with Covid-19. There have been several positive tests of students in local schools over the past two weeks. Those schools have reacted swiftly. However, the reporting and advice mechanism has been creaking under the strain and some schools have had to act prior to Public Health England returning their calls. In addition, the initial advice to schools has changed over this period. We are not sending whole 'bubble' year groups home but are instructed to send home (at the end of a school day) those who were in close proximity to a student who tests positive so they can isolate for 14 days. Close proximity is defined as 'within two metres for longer than 15 minutes'. In effect, this means students in a class sitting directly in front, behind and to the left and right, so approximately 10 students in a classroom. Because we have form groups and teaching groups, this is about 20 students. In all cases, we will not be sharing with the wider school community the individual identity of a student who has tested positive.

We have had a student with a positive test in Year 7. When we reported and asked for instructions, Public Health England advised us that because the student had been absent from school for at least 48 hours before the test (and displayed no symptoms whilst in school), it was not necessary for any other students to isolate. We wrote to the parents of those students who had been in close proximity to explain Public Health England's position.

This throws up the question of how we intend to deal with future students who test positive. There will be a tiered response depending on the size of the outbreak. For a small number of positive cases, we will follow the 'close proximity' instructions. Should a greater number of students in one year group test positive, we will ask the year group to isolate. If the outbreak covers both year groups then the school will close and we switch to remote learning. Mirroring this is our need to ensure we have enough staff available to be in school. Although we are fortunate to have enough space and classrooms to keep two year groups separated, we have less staff than other schools given that we only have two year groups. What that means is there is very little manoeuvrability if staff are away ill or isolating and should we get to the position where we cannot ensure the safety and security of your child at school, we will need to move to remote learning options. We have had a high proportion of questionnaires returned by parents regarding readiness for partial or full school closure. If you have not returned

this yet, please do so over this weekend. It enables us to identify where we need to offer greater support to ensure continued learning.

Running in tandem with our normal school timetable, we have our subject student sites populated with lessons. If a student is isolating but in good health they should, via these subject student sites, follow their standard timetable and complete lessons accordingly. Work needs to be handed in regularly, by email and google classroom, and feedback will be provided. Our remote school worked well during complete lockdown but trying to operate a dual system of 'in school' and 'remote learning' adds another layer of complexity to the situation and further increases staff workload. In addition, we have made further provision to protect learning should we need to ask a whole year group or the whole school to isolate.

The landscape is shifting and advice and guidance has been changing. The rate of infection is increasing nationally and schools have now been instructed to report to Herts County Council rather than Public Health England for future incidents.

It seems clear that we will be working under Covid-19 conditions for the foreseeable future. While we try to keep the school as normal as possible, there are some things that we just cannot maintain. Sadly, our cherished Period 7 offering of Mind, Body and Soul options is one casualty as are our range of clubs. However, we are using the time productively for additional catch up for Maths and English. We intend to offer a limited range of sports clubs at lunchtimes going forward.

Public Health England has produced a [letter for schools](#) and colleges to share with parents/carers which explains when a child requires a coronavirus (COVID-19) test and what the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are. The intention of the letter is to support parents and carers in identifying when their child needs to self-isolate as a result of displaying coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms and answer some of the questions parents/carers may have around testing.

As a gentle reminder, please ensure your child has a reusable water bottle each day and if your child forgets something, kindly contact reception in advance rather than coming into the school. We are strongly discouraging visitors to the site. Please also consider our communications protocols which states that we will respond to calls and emails within 48 hours and this applies to anything other than Covid-19 or safeguarding related matters, which are dealt with as a priority.



Heads up in the sports hall!

As referred to in my previous newsletter, I can confirm our Sports Centre is now complete and will be in use from Monday!



Dance Studio

Finally, we have been advising parents of Year 6 children interested in joining us that under current circumstances, that the best way of forming an opinion about KWS is asking parents and students who are currently here. Should you know any Year 6 parents, please give them some of your time to answer their questions.

Tony Smith
Headteacher

House Points

This week's house point winners are **Keller** - Congratulations!

Form	Year 7	Year 8	Total
Ali	709	453	1162
Armstrong	704	495	1199
Franklin	698	724	1422
Keller	850	638	1488
Nightingale	663	448	1111
Tesla	706	486	1192

Sports Notices

Due to the change in the weather, students may wish to wear warmer school PE Kit according to our uniform policy. Outdoor jackets / sweatshirts that are not KWS branded can not be worn for PE.

A reminder to all that rugby club continues this Saturday 26th September at Harpenden Rugby Club from 9-10am for boys and girls. It would be great to see as many students as possible there.

In addition, other clubs will be starting from 5th October (please see the attached timetable). Due to COVID-19, we have had to offer clubs to each year group on a 3-4 week rotation to avoid use of the same space (sports hall) by different year groups for both clubs and curriculum time. Students will need to sign up to these clubs in advance - more information about how to do that will be shared with them next week.

A copy of the extra-curricular timetable is below:

Due to COVID-19, clubs will run in 3-4 week blocks for each year group in the sports hall. Clubs will operate by students signing up to a club (more information to follow) – with a maximum of 30 students at one time. On Fridays, priority will be given to those that were unable to play on either Tuesday or Wednesday.

Year 8 clubs: 5th-23rd October; 23rd November - 18th December

Year 7 clubs: 2nd-20th November; 4th-22nd January

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Before School 7:40-8:15am	COMING SOON!					
Lunchtime 12:50-1:30pm	Netball 	Boys' Football 	Girls' Football 	Basketball 	Football (1-1.30pm) 	Rugby @ Harpenden Rugby Club 9-10am

Music



Instrumental Lessons

It was lovely to see some of our 1-1 instrumental tutors back in school last week and for students to enjoy face-to-face lessons once more. Sadly we cannot yet accommodate wind/brass/vocal tuition at present due to the current Covid regulations. Nevertheless, our flute teacher is able to offer online lessons.

If your child would like to have instrumental lessons then please visit www.rhythmroom.co.uk to register. For those wishing to continue with their own private tutor, we can usually provide practice room space within the school day in order to accommodate this. Please contact me if you would like to set this up: a.bailey@kwschool.co.uk

KWS Virtual Choir

Songs have now been added to the KWS Music Site in order for students to access lyrics and mp3 audio files. I am encouraging all students to continue singing at home, on their walk to school, in the shower etc! Just not in groups yet, due to the current restrictions.

I was so impressed with the recordings students produced for the summer Well-being Carnival that I would like to build on this. Any student wishing to participate in a KWS Virtual Choir should attend the relevant meeting with me next week so that I can explain more:



YEAR 8: Monday 28th September at BREAK in 122

YEAR 7: Tuesday 29th September at BREAK in 121

Band

I also haven't forgotten about our wonderful band. I will be adding pieces to the KWS Music Site in the coming weeks so that students can practise their parts at home, plus organising meetings with you all. Keep playing and look out for more information to come...

Ms. Bailey

Free School Meals

If your circumstances have recently changed, your son/daughter may be eligible for free school meals.

Your child is eligible if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than £16,190 a year)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (with annual earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax and not including any benefits you get).

How do I register?

You only need to register once with Hertfordshire County Council.

Please apply directly using the Hertfordshire County Council website by [clicking here](#) or call 0300 123 4048.

You just need your National Insurance number or Home Office number to hand. It takes 5 mins and in most cases they can tell you straight away if your child is eligible for free school meals.

If you were previously registered with a different county, e.g. Bedfordshire, you will need to re-register with Hertfordshire County Council.

Upcoming Events

Friday 2nd October - Inset Day - Please note that school will be closed to students for an inset training day for staff.

Saturday 3rd, 10th and 17th October - Year 6 tours of the school (Must be pre-booked)

This week's notices to parents /carers:

Using the Remote School
Additional School Funding
Bus Services
Lost Property

KWS Vacancies

Volunteer Science Technician

Thinking of a future support role in school? We are looking to recruit a volunteer(s) to assist our Science Technician, hours/days to suit. You would be working alongside our Science Technician, Mrs Brandon, in our fabulous new Science Prep room.

Previous experience/science background desirable but not essential.

All KWS volunteers are subject to DBS checks and references.

If you are interested please email Julie Fox: recruitment@kwschool.co.uk

Social Media

Keep up to date with the latest information via the newsletter, website and our social media platforms:

Facebook @KatherineWaringtonSchool,

Twitter @KWSHarpenden.

Instagram @kwschoolharpenden

If you haven't already done so, please sign up and follow us!

Non KWS Events / Publicity

NESSie parent training provides guidance for parents/carers with children up to the age of 13, who may be experiencing anxiety. Due to the high level of demand, extra dates have been added. [Click here for booking information.](#)

BeeZee Bodies are offering free healthy eating programmes for children and families.

[Click here](#) to sign up.



FREE WEEKLY WEBINARS TO HELP YOUR FAMILY BE HEALTHIER!

Your family's health has never been so important. So we've taken our award-winning BeeZee Families programme and made it virtual, so that we can continue to support Hertfordshire families to create healthy habits - safely, from home - during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over 12 weeks of webinars, we'll cover topics such as healthy snacking, balanced meals, portion size and physical activity. The webinars are fun and interactive, with games and quizzes, and prizes to be won!

Our team of family nutritionists are experts at engaging children around healthy eating and exercise, and can help you turn one healthy behaviour into a good habit for life!

Funded by Hertfordshire County Council, this free service is available to children aged 5-15 who have a BMI above the 91st centile (we can help you work this out if you're not sure).



"We got a lot out of the online sessions, it really helped us to make some positive changes to our eating habits. I liked the idea of having the quizzes and polls as you still felt really involved, and both Jamie and I had lost weight after just 8 weeks."
Jamie (7 years)

"The online programme was run brilliantly. Informative, interactive and interesting. We all found it helpful and picked up useful knowledge for life! Jake has lost 11kg and he looks and feels so much better! Thanks BeeZee Bodies for giving him a lifetime of skills to keep this going!"
Jack (16 years)

New groups begin 5th October!

Sign up for your free place at beezeebodies.com or call 01707 248648

