24th April 2020

Weekly Newsletter

This week @ Kensington

I hope that you are all keeping well. Thank you to everyone who has sent in lovely messages to our info@ address, through social media and, ‘Thank the Teacher’ e-cards. It really does mean so much to all the staff at Kensington.

For all those who are observing, Ramadan Mubarak.

There continues to be speculation about what is going to happen and when - including around the re-opening of schools. The fact is, this is a changing situation and no-one can predict the future. As a team, we talk a lot about, ‘being present in the moment’ and, ‘controlling the controllables’. I think that applies now more than ever. Trying to guess what might happen is a sure way to create anxiety and stress; for now we all need to focus on what is happening right now. Equally, there is so much that is out of our control. Try to focus on what you can control, not all of the things that you can’t.

We will continue to keep you informed and we will re-open the school as soon as we are informed it is safe to do so. When this will be, what that will look like, and how we will make it all work, we don’t know at this stage. What we do know - and what we can control - is that we have an amazing team, incredible children, and the best, most supportive community. We have plans in place for how we will support everyone to come out of this and, specifically, how we will support the children to get back into the routine of school and catch-up with their learning. All of this is in place and we will work together to get through the next phases and, eventually, return to normality.

I know how hard this is. I know everyone is in different situations and faces different challenges. I know for many of you there will be positives to this situation - spending more time with your children, a slower pace of life, less cars/planes/pollution, an increase in community spirit etc. I also know for many it will be hard to see the positives. Do what you can to focus on today and what you can control. Remember that we are here for you and anything we can do to support we will - please just let us know by email at info@ or when we call you to check-in. Togeth-er we will come out of the other side and will look back with pride at our resilience, courage, and adaptability. Take care.

Mr Ben Levinson
Head Teacher

NO After school clubs or 6 O’ clock club or Breakfast club until further notice

ONLINE P.E sessions

Joe Wicks is teaching a live P.E session every morning at 9AM. It will be on his YouTube channel and website. A great way of keeping the children busy and active!

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook

We are now sharing latest news, stories from all the schools in the Trust on a central Facebook TTLT page and the @LearnTapscott Twitter feed continues to showcase some of the lovely events, activities and achievements from across the Trust.

It would be great to build up a greater following on these platforms. The Facebook Page is The Tapscott Learning Trust. The Twitter feed directed at parents is @LearnTapscott.

If you don’t already follow and use either of these then please do.
Dear parents,

It is important to download the Study bugs app as this will be the form of communication between school and parents from now on.

Due to the recent uncertain changes, we are trying to reach all parents by sending messages through Study bugs.

Please follow the link to download the app: https://studybugs.com/about/parents

Kensington Primary School’s Top 3 reasons to use Studybugs:
1. It’s integrated with our systems so we know right away if your child is unaccounted for
2. It’s quick and easy to register and use and automatically reminds you to keep us posted.
3. You’ll be helping the NHS and other public health organisations improve children’s health. (https://studybugs.com/about/schools)

For more information or support with downloading the app please speak to the office staff.

Tips for Parenting

How can I help my child feel safe?

Fear is infectious in a pandemic. Children pick up everything but they can't articulate it so they act out. As parents helping children feel safe will reduce outbursts and irrational behavior. Here are some tips to help your child feel safe.

- Try sitting with your child while they are playing and resist the urge to teach him/her anything just pour love on to them. Say things like "I love to watch you play" or describe what you see them doing. Be present.
- If your child is being clingy, scoop them up and give them lots of hugs. Say "Are you out of hugs again?"
- Empathise when your child is whining so he feels understood and less overwhelmed.
- Respond to your child’s disappointment by accepting it, listening and sitting with your child in him/her disappointment. Let them feel heard.

FREE Activities To Help Children Get On Well Together

This week at school we have been getting creative in the playground with chalk! We drew colourful butterflies for the people we are missing.

Children have also been learning all about volcanoes! They have been researching and creating a slideshow with the amazing facts they have learnt. They used a plastic bottle, newspaper, PVA glue and paint to create their very own volcanoes which they erupted - it was spectacular!

It was also Mr Raza's birthday this week! We celebrated with cake & cheesecakes made my Miss Chac. Happy Birthday Mr Raza!

We created a mural for the ones we miss and released balloons with messages for NHS and the ones we love.