



# The James Hornsby School

*Together we excel*

25 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are keeping and following the Government guidelines that have been issued to us all. The Government expects the COVID-19 outbreak to continue to have a significant impact on the education system. The school is doing our part to support vulnerable children, the children of key workers and their families by remaining open for these people.

As a member of the James Hornsby family I will write to you regularly during these difficult times and keep communication as frequent as we possibly can. We remain 100% committed to your child's learning and will be there to support their progress.

Over the coming weeks and possibly months it is important that your child continues their studies whilst being happy, safe and healthy. Below are some guidelines that we have produced that may help you.

- Maintain a daily routine. This is particularly important when you are at home all day as things can quickly become unstructured.
- Create a daily timetable. There is a good example on our website to help you. <https://www.jameshornsby.essex.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Daily-Routine.pdf>
- Try to read daily. Engage in age appropriate reading together as a family.
- Incorporate physical activity daily.
- Avoid long blocks of social media and online activity. Try to be as flexible as possible with learning material.

## **Learning from Home**

Our teachers are working daily to provide new learning material especially through google hangout sessions. Please check your child's work and support our staff where you can. Remember to check work via our webpage. <https://www.jameshornsby.essex.sch.uk/curriculum/learning-menus/>

Please encourage your child to keep working. We will be checking their work and giving feedback.

## **Safeguarding and Wellbeing**

Our safeguarding procedures and contact details can be found on our website <https://www.jameshornsby.essex.sch.uk/safeguarding/safeguarding-jh/>. We are also adding content to the Wellbeing pages of our website to assist with stress at this time.

### Communication with Parents During Closure

We will continue to provide updates throughout the closure period:

- Primary communication by Edulink, email and website <https://www.jameshornsby.essex.sch.uk>  
***There are a number of parents who have not provided us with an email address or have downloaded the Edulink app - please could you do this as a matter of urgency in order for us to keep in regular contact with you. Details of how to access this are on our website.***
- Supported by the school social media platforms for Instagram, search *jameshornsby\_school* and Twitter, search *@SchJamesHornsby*.

### School Provision During the Closure Period

This is intended for a limited number of students whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response, and children who are vulnerable.

Thank you for following the Government guidance on key worker children attending school, and for responding to our requests for information. We are here for you; however, I need to reiterate a clear message that this provision is for emergencies, and it is important to note that we only provide facilities for the children of workers critical to the ongoing management of COVID-19 or to keep vulnerable children safe.

We need to ensure that the number of children and young people accessing the offer of provision is kept to the lowest number possible. Therefore, even if you have been deemed a critical worker, if your children can remain at home rather than attend school, on some or all days, then they should. Please only use the provision when it is crucial for you to undertake your critical role. Clearly the more children and young people that attend school, the wider the risk of spreading the virus grows.

### Government Advice Regarding Leaving Children Unattended

There is no law about when you can leave your child on their own, but it is an offence to leave them alone if it places them at risk. As parents, you should use your judgement on how mature your child is before you decide to leave them at home.

If you are at all unsure, the NSPCC recommends that children under 12 are rarely mature enough to be left alone for a long period of time, children under 16 should not be left alone overnight and babies, toddlers and very young children should never be left alone.

### Year 11

I have written to Year 11 parents separately however I am sure you will join me in wishing all of our Year 11 family well in their future destinations. They have been a credit to the school and know where we are if needed. We hope to mark their departure in the near future more formally once we get the go ahead.

Over the course of this national crisis we may not get everything right; this way of working is clearly new - there is no template. However, we will endeavour to make the right decisions for our students in these extraordinary times. I would like to thank you all for your patience during this rapidly changing national situation. It is an evolving one for us, and I shall continue to keep you informed of any further developments.

I cannot emphasise enough about following the guidance, and the single most important action we can all take, in fighting COVID-19, is to stay at home in order to protect the NHS and save lives. Once again, on behalf of my senior leadership team and staff, I would like to wish you and your family all the best during these unprecedented times.

Stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to a point on the right.

**MR D STEEL**  
Headteacher



**ZENITH**  
MULTI ACADEMY  
TRUST

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