

King Edwin Primary School

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KEPS - Update

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you to everyone that has managed to complete our recent provision feedback survey. It is really helpful to see that such an overwhelming majority of families are feeling supported by KEPS at this challenging time.

I would like to offer some response to questions posed or concerns that I feel are raised within the feedback received albeit only by a handful of families. We are very much a listening school and any constructive feedback as such is welcomed.

Constructive comments (black) and KEPS responses (red):

Due to personal circumstances I haven't been able to be with my child all the time and I worry if she has completed the tasks she has been asked to do.

This is a common issue - simply understand that you are doing your best in very difficult times.

Structured days but appreciate this is as my child is at foundation level. Had enough work sent through but found myself having to plan days.

If we structure days too much, this may be detrimental to parents that are unable to stick to that timetable.

I would have liked some kind of group / class time with teachers for those that wanted to attend. Would have given me a dedicated time for own work. Even if 30 mins every couple of days.

We are offering more bespoke/individual sessions with staff rather than lessons at specific times. This is because again, the timing of a session would prevent some children from taking part for a range of reasons. Our staff are often booking group sessions with children as appropriate.

The big list of tasks sent through can be a little daunting when faced with them. I know they are only suggested but there does feel a certain amount of pressure and competitiveness amongst the parents to complete as many as you can.

We understand and can only remind parents that the work is optional - if we sent out less, it may be seen as we are not providing enough (especially by those parents that want more).

PUBLISHING OF WORK IN MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Understood however, we must remind parents that we have had no time to prepare for the pandemic...it just happened. We have however been able to offer a very thorough provision from the start, unlike many schools that were not as well prepared due to lack of online investment before hand. Streamlining platforms and file locations is a good idea though.

Feel guilty as our children are attending school most days and are too tired to complete much homework during an evening.

Don't feel guilty...feel proud of the key work you are providing to support the whole country during this time.

We have had no hard provisions and don't have access to a printer.

With 430 plus children, there is no safe and appropriate way of providing the paper copies whilst also providing all of the other support too. To have printout collection would not be appropriate and could possibly go against government guidelines.

The amount of work set has been overwhelming. Especially as I work full time shifts.

We understand. We must keep reminding people that we give resources/sessions but they are optional.

Limited pack of work sent home at the beginning. We don't have a printer at home. We have adapted but maybe offering a worksheet collection service would have been helpful. I would have dropped in and collected worksheets weekly.

This would not be possible neither logistically nor would it be appropriate regarding government guidelines.

Being turned away after 1 day of being offered for my children to remain in school while I was working.



We have had to follow government guidelines.

Lack of support for families working from home.

We do not see what else we could do to help families working from home. We are not allowed to take children in to school unless their family are critical workers.

Not knowing when teachers are calling.

We have passed this on and I have asked staff to try to ensure perhaps time slots are booked in - some teachers already do this and it has been well received.

Assignment deadlines. Some assignments some short deadlines, others are closed but haven't been taken off.

We are trying to ensure that children are still able to access assignments even though a deadline has passed.

We have been unable to home school our child sufficiently as we are both keyworkers working full time from home, contact with school staff is difficult due to full time key work. So child is largely left to own devices.

We have offered places in school as per government guidelines - to reiterate, schools are a last resort for childcare and we do not suggest that people take the access to a school place very lightly.

I'm concerned about social distancing procedures when the younger children return (whenever that happens).

We have been planning for weeks now and we will make sure great care is taken when the time comes.

I'm in the same opinion - me and my husband are both key workers and I don't feel my child is getting enough schooling.

My wife and I are both key workers and our children are also in this position. I am working full time, weekend, bank holidays and Easter holidays and this will impact the education of my two children - Harry and Charlotte. They are not attending their school though as I want to keep them as safe as possible. It is so difficult for us all and I fully empathise with you.

Would be helpful if some of the homework/reading/doodle work could be completed while they are at school for keyworkers children if possible?

We are trying but we are also mindful that children attending school may be emotionally impacted by what is happening around them. We are focussing on caring for the children before education.

Personally I feel I'm struggling to homeschool my child, I'm a NHS worker my husband is working from home ..and trying to juggle work and homeschool and a tantruming toddler is very hard at the minute.

You are doing a great job...try to remain positive and remember , we are here if you need to talk to us...even just for a reassuring chat.

Only to say that I have seen the comment you emailed about earlier today from a key worker working at home. I have to say that I am also classed as a 'key worker'. I am also working from home and have done since the schools closed. As is my husband. With three children aged 5-13 this is difficult and at times stressful. But I don't feel my child is missing out because of the school. I encourage him to do some tasks school has set, and we have also done our own things. But he does spend lots of time playing football on the garden (and perhaps too much time watching YouTube) but we do what we need to do to get through each day, support all our boys with school work as much as we can and also do our work too. To be honest I would rather have it this way and know my children are safe at home than have to send them into school. I trust that when ??????? does return to school you will do all you can to get him settled back in and catch up if he has fallen behind. You are all doing amazing at what is a difficult time for everyone.

Quite a few families (myself included) are in this same position. I don't feel that any of us have the right answers but we are always here at school to talk things through.

I do worry about the impact this will have on my younger child not being ready to move into her next year group, these are worries I had before school closure and are now a much greater worry for me.

Please be reassured that when children move up to the next year, we will have to adapt our provision accordingly. Obviously, all children are impacted but all teachers will now need to consider their teaching and provision to account for such loss of learning time and gaps that will no doubt develop.

I feel that My children are missing out on valuable education because me and my husband are key workers working from home. I do not wish for my children to be on their iPads all of the time to do any work.

We understand about the technology issue... the ipads/chrome book issue will only be for a limited time though and at the moment, the best way of providing both communication and support is through technology.

Other schools have provided two lessons a day via zoom. 30 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes in the afternoon. It would've been nice to have that and easily done for teachers working at home or in the classroom to live stream.

Providing lessons would add time pressures for families and staff. It is important to note that the government has not recommended that formal lessons are delivered by staff. If we provided set lessons, it would mean that children may miss sessions due to their parents not being available to support or sharing technology etc. We feel that we provide better than a 30 minute zoom session by having staff available all day every day and offering interventions, conference calls etc. We must point out that 17 members of staff have been ill in the past 7 weeks and several are shielding.



Parents must understand that we have increased social care workload and safeguarding responsibilities due to COVID 19. Setting two lessons daily would not be the best course of action when taking all of these factors into consideration. We are offering a more bespoke service.

I feel it is unfair that our child is missing out on education just because we are key workers working from home, other key worker children have access to education at school and non key worker children have people at home who can help them. Ours is being let down and potentially falling behind the children who have been given access to education.

We understand this viewpoint however, those children attending school are basically receiving care and minimal education. We must follow government guidelines regarding who attends school.

Hopefully, the response (in red) goes some way to explaining the decisions we make at school. Please do not see them as overly defensive as we really do appreciate that all concerns are legitimate and fully justifiable concerns that families have right now. We will do all that we can to address any issue that may perhaps increase or improve our provision at KEPS. We always aim to improve and offer our best for our community.

I do hope that you are able to have some positive family time this weekend however, if you are a key worker and must continue to work through these times- THANK YOU - from everyone here at Team KEPS.

I know it may seem very challenging at home and so many of us are living very different lives right now. Please remember that if you need to talk or require support in any way, we may be able to help. Contact us via helpandsupport@kingedwin.notts.sch.uk

Sending you all a virtual 'High 5'! Stay safe everyone and we hope to see you all very soon.

Mr Callaghan-Wetton

