



**Children, Young People and
Education Directorate**

Sessions House
County Hall
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Date: 01 April 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Thank You

Today marks the last day of term for most before we enter the Easter break, which will be unlike any other we have experienced as schools remain open for those that need them. The last few weeks have been truly extraordinary and as school leaders you have been at the forefront in responding to this pandemic; ensuring that the children of key workers and the most vulnerable children in our community are provided with a place of safety. My thanks extend to your staff who have been under great pressure and have responded admirably.

All updates and resources will continue to be provided on KELSI and KCC services remain available to support you.

Concerningly, two schools have made our Counter Fraud Team aware that they have been targeted by fraudsters taking advantage of the current crisis to conduct 'Spear Phishing' fraud. Finance staff at the schools have received emails purporting to be a Senior Leader requesting for an Urgent Bacs/ Faster payment to be made. The email accounts sending the request are "spoofed" from the Senior Leaders making the emails look genuine. Please ask your staff to be vigilant about emails from all sources that request payments and to confirm their authenticity with the sender. A note has been provided on KELSI. https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/106477/Covid-19-Fraud-Alert-Spear-Phishing.pdf

A new 24 hour helpline has been launched today to support vulnerable people in Kent who need urgent help, supplies or medication; Kent Together is being coordinated by KCC. The helpline will provide a single, convenient point of contact for anyone in the county who is in urgent need of help during the Coronavirus outbreak. It is a collaboration between KCC, central Government,

District, Borough and local councils, the voluntary and community sector, the NHS, emergency services and other partners to ensure help is at hand for vulnerable people. The service can be accessed at www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether or by calling on 03000 419292. Attached is a suggested letter for you to send to all parents informing them about this service.

Finally, Kent Police has raised concern that some children and young people are continuing to socialise and has asked that schools remind parents of the social distancing advice; particularly that children should not be socialising with their peers.

I wish you all well

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Dunkley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'y'.

Matt Dunkley CBE
Corporate Director
Children, Young People and Education

Model Letter to parents re Kent Together

Dear Parent/Carer

Kent County Council has launched a new 24 hour helpline called Kent Together to support vulnerable people in Kent who need urgent help, supplies or medication. The helpline will provide a single, convenient point of contact for anyone in the county who is in urgent need of help during the Coronavirus outbreak. It is a collaboration between KCC, central Government, District, Borough and local councils, the voluntary and community sector, the NHS, emergency services and other partners to ensure help is at hand for vulnerable people.

If you are vulnerable and have an urgent need that cannot be met through existing support networks, or are concerned about the welfare of someone else you can contact the Kent Together helpline at www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether or by calling on 03000 41 92 92. It is a 24 hour service.

Kind Regards etc