

Communication for Parent/Carers – 24.03.2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

Due to the government recommendations regarding Coronavirus, DSPL8 have put all courses, workshops and support groups on hold until further notice and local services are providing limited services. DSPL8 will still continue to send you fortnightly email communications providing you with useful information and advice. The DSPL staff will also be available to help with any queries, please send emails to: dspl@kls.herts.sch.uk
Please also like our Facebook page, which we will keep regularly updated with information and support - www.facebook.com/dspldacorum

If you know anyone who would also benefit from receiving these emails, please ask them to email dspl@kls.herts.sch.uk and we will add them to our mailing list.

Please find below useful links, helplines and websites should you need any support during this period of closure.

Be safe and take care,

DSPL 8 Team – Carole Hassell, Ruth Mason & Ashley Fabray
Facebook - www.facebook.com/dspldacorum
Website - www.dacorumdspl.org.uk

Useful links related to Coronavirus

Social story for Coronavirus by Carol Gray:

<https://carolgraysocialstories.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Pandemics-and-the-Coronavirus.pdf>

British Psychological Society guidance:

<https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/bps-highlights-importance-talking-children-about-coronavirus>

Information for children, families and professionals re Covid 19. It provides a summary of key resources:

<https://edpsy.org.uk/blog/2020/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-children-families-and-professionals/>

Child Mind Institute:

<https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>

BBC Newsround: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51342366>

Makaton signed video by Cat McGill - Access to the Arts, to help people with SEN and communication difficulties understand where we're at with Covid_19:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3200706309959280&id=258662387497035

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Support Group Contacts

As the support groups are currently on hold, please find below the contact details for who to contact for support:

Dyslexia support Group:

Lyndsey Hooper, School Family Services Manager - lyndsey.hooper@hobbshellwood.herts.sch.uk, 01442 401222

ADHD & Autism support:

ADD-vance Helpdesk is open from 9am to 1pm every weekday via [01727 833963](tel:01727833963) or email to herts@add-vance.org

Website - www.add-vance.org

ASD support Groups:

Hemel Hempstead – Nicola Long, School Family Worker – longn@kls.herts.sch.uk

Berkhamstead – Lisa McGovern, School Family Worker – 07780 114 079

SEND Friends support group:

Support is available through the Facebook group - www.facebook.com/SENDfriendsTring

Space Support Group:

Website - www.spaceherts.org.uk/ , Email - spaceherts@gmail.com

Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/Spacehertfordshire/>

Facebook group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/523248431177965/>

Families in Focus Parent Network:

Website - www.familiesinfocus.co.uk , Telephone - 01442 219 720

Facebook Page - www.facebook.com/familiesinfocus.co.uk

Facebook group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/184975381651870/>

Additional Support Contacts

Educational Psychologists: The contact line is open on Wednesdays, 2pm - 4.30pm via 01992 588 574

Speech, Language, Communication and Autism: To support children with communication and autism needs and their families during this unsettled period, the Specialist Advisory Teachers will be extending the hours of our telephone advice line from Monday 23rd March until the schools reopen. It will be open daily between 10am and 2pm (term time) to provide advice and guidance for parents and carers. If you wish to speak to a Specialist Advisory Teacher please call 01442 453920 during these times. Please note: We are unable to provide advice in relation to the coronavirus or the duration of school closures.

KIDS Hub: Please click on the link for an update from KIDS Hub regarding contact -

<https://mailchi.mp/a6684acd4879/kids-hubs-service-changes-due-to-covid-19?e=968dd43432>

SEND Local offer: information about services available in your local area for parents, children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/the-hertfordshire-local-offer.aspx>

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Dacorum Family Centre Service: contactable via their main phone line - 0300 123 7572 and you can email local enquires via Dacorum.fcsenquiries@inspireall.com
Please follow their Facebook page – Dacorum Family Centre Service - and keep an eye on their website for updates - www.hertsfamilycentres.org

School Family Worker Services: Dacorum has four School Family Services teams, who support families of children attending Dacorum Schools. Advice and support is available on a range of issues, including supporting families of children with additional needs. Support is currently available via telephone to these services:

Dacorum Family Services - 01442 401222 Ext 5 - www.dacorumfamilyservices.org.uk

Link Family Services - 01442 401222 Ext 5 - www.linkfamily services.co.uk

Gade Schools Family Support - 01442 278793 - www.gadeschoolsfamilysupport.co.uk

Kings Langley Partnership of Schools - 01923 271744

Support advice from Dacorum and LINK Family Services:

Our School Family Support Workers (FSW) are committed to supporting the children, families and schools within their partnerships.

Coronavirus

We aim to offer a continuous service to the best of our abilities, within the parameters of the National advice and our workers health. We are following advice from the Government, Public Health England (PHE), DfE and HCC to ensure we keep contamination risk to a minimum.

Should our service need to stop all community face to face working:

1. Your FSW will maintain Telephone, Text, Email communication for advice, guidance or signposting. Or you can contact the relevant FSW for advice, guidance or signposting.
For new referrals please call 01442 401222.
2. Families First Portal for relevant non-emergency Family Support Advice, Guidance or Signposting: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/familiesfirst

EMERGENCY details:

- **Foodbanks:** <https://dacorum.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/>
- **Health Coronavirus:** <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>
- **Self-Isolating Guidance:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>
- Family Lives: 0808 800 2222
- HCC Children's Services: 0300 123 4043
- Samaritans: 116 123
- ChildLine: 0800 1111