

Primrose Hill Primary School

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Thursday 5th November

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope that you all had a restful half term and managed to get some quality time with your families. Thank you for all your well wishes for Robin and Edina - they are both slowly recovering and appreciate your well wishes. I will keep you updated throughout the week.

I am writing following the Prime Minister's announcement that we will be going into a **4 week lockdown from today 5th November 2020**. We are all pleased that schools will remain open so that your children do not miss any further education and I would encourage you to send your children to school unless they have COVID symptoms or are isolating. We continue to have rigorous procedures in place to ensure everyone's safety.

Please ensure you have read and follow all advice and new restrictions so that we can keep our community safe, which can be found in full at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november#education-school-college-and-university>

To the right is a summary of the Lockdown arrangements and below is a bullet point list of the main differences to the last Lockdown:

- 1 adult can meet up with 1 friend outdoors (and pre-school children can be 'extra' to the 2 adults)
- Public toilets will remain open, opticians and dentists remain open
- Single parent households or single adults can form a 'support bubble' and can freely mix with 1 other household of any size
- Parents are able to form a 'childcare bubble' with another household to help with informal (unpaid and unregistered) childcare. This must always be the same household
- You can have unlimited outdoor exercise

NEW GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE
A month-long national lockdown begins Thursday 5 November to control the spread of coronavirus.

It means that:

- TEMPORARILY CLOSED** Non-essential shops and businesses will close.
- You won't be able to mix indoors with people from another household, unless they are people within your support or childcare bubble.
- You can only exercise or visit outdoor public places with people you live with, people in your bubble or 1 person from another household.
- You must work from home if you can, unless you are in an essential service, or where your workplace is open and you cannot work from home.
- You must stay at home unless you have to leave the house to work or you're leaving the house for a permitted reason such as exercising outdoors, taking a child to school, attending university, to shop for essentials, for care responsibilities, or to attend a medical appointment or seek medical advice.

The restrictions will be reviewed by the Government in early December. You can read more at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Head Teacher: Robin Warren

Acting Head Teacher: Mireille Alwan

This half term, we will continue to manage and monitor risk and have already put additional measures into place, including:

- All staff, including meal time supervisors and kitchen staff, have been wearing masks in communal areas and in the dining hall
- Rooms are ventilated each morning and throughout the day. Teachers have been trying to get outside more or having extended play to vent their classroom in between lessons
- We have changed collection time to reduce the crowds on school grounds - **see below on further ways you can help with this**

Communicating with Families

Communication with families is challenging at this time and we urge you to please check your emails regularly and read all text communications from the school. This is our main way of getting information to you at the moment and whilst we are missing face to face contact, it is very important that you continue to check. Our weekly newsletter is also on the school website each week.

We are also trying to create an opportunity to have regular liaison times again with teachers, as we know that you are eager to talk to us. I will update you on this as soon as we confirm a plan.

Start & End of the Day

We appreciate that arrangements such as staggered start and end of the day times may be inconvenient for you as a family if you have more than one child to drop off or collect, but at the moment it is a necessary measure. Ultimately these procedures have been put in place to keep everyone safe and to keep the school running smoothly, and we appreciate your support with this.

The end of the day remains a potential risk with crowds congregating so **please ensure you do the following to help us reduce the risk of Covid spreading in our community:**

- **ONLY** arrive at school at your allocated time- this will ease congestion on the street and in front of the gate
- Use the markings on either side of the gate to line up, maintaining social distance
- Please wait until a member of staff says you can come in to collect your child/ren
- Exit the playground as swiftly as possible- we are often having to remind parents to continue to move and not congregate together
- If you have more than one collection, please exit the school playground, wait outside on either side of the gate using the socially distanced markings or across the road. Please **DO NOT** stand in front of the gate and please maintain social distance from others
- When entering the school gates, again, please maintain a social distance from each other
- **If you are late for your allocated collection time, please wait outside and only enter at the next collection time (3pm, 3:10pm or 3:20pm)**
- **Wear a face mask** not just when you enter the building, **but outside the school**, as you are still having contact with other adults & children

Following all of the above rules and socially distancing from each other will ensure we keep our community safe.

Help and Support

It's understandable if you feel anxious and worried at the moment. Try to be kind to yourself, keep active, sleep well and stay in touch with loved ones, and look out for some workshops from Mandy and Syra on family resilience. If you would like to talk to someone about how you're feeling, you can access mental health support services here:

- Speak to your GP, visit [icope.nhs.uk](https://www.icope.nhs.uk) or phone 020 3317 6670 to find out about free, confidential support
- Kooth offers confidential online support for young people aged 11 to 18 at [kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com)
More information about support for young people is available at [camdenrise.co.uk/emotional-wellbeing](https://www.camdenrise.co.uk/emotional-wellbeing)
- Whatever you're going through, Samaritans are there to listen – phone 116 123
- If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, phone the 24-hour crisis line on 020 3317 6333

Visit [camden.gov.uk/mental-health](https://www.camden.gov.uk/mental-health) to find out about more support available, including advice in other languages.

Please do continue to immediately report any Covid symptoms or concerns by phoning the school: 02077228500 or emailing: admin@primrosehill.camden.sch.uk We are all here to support you and your families, please do come and see any member of SLT who are out on the gate in the morning and afternoon or call/email the school to arrange a meeting.

Despite all of the challenging circumstances, the wellbeing and progress of the children continues to be at the heart of what we do, and I am incredibly proud of the children's ongoing motivation and passion for learning that makes the school day so enjoyable. Thank you for helping us to finesse the 'boring' but necessary stuff so that the children can focus on the learning and fun to be had!

Look after each other and continue to be vigilant about your safety.

Kind regards,

Mireille Alwan & SLT

Acting Head Teacher & Senior Leadership Team