

Primrose Hill Primary School

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Saturday 2nd January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

Happy New Year!

I hope that this letter finds you and your family all safe and healthy. I know it has been an anxious time for all of us and that many of your holiday plans were affected by the Tier 4 rules, but hopefully you have all managed to stay safe and well.

This term will be the first in my official role of Acting Head Teacher and whilst it comes at a difficult and challenging time for schools, I am confident that I am well supported by our community - from your wonderful children, to all of the caring parents and carers and to our amazing staff. Together we will get through this and one day look back on it as a distant memory.

Earlier in the week, you will have heard that Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, announced a closure of most London schools. This did not include several inner London authorities, including Camden. Following pressure from schools and councils about the inconsistent decision made, Gavin Williamson has made a U-turn decision that **all London schools will remain closed until 18th January. As a Primary School, this includes our Early Years Provision** (please see below for information on in-school provision).

I'm sure that many of our parents, children and staff will be disappointed with this decision, as we know that children want to be in school with their peers and learn with their teachers. However, it is also an uncertain time with this new and highly infectious strain of COVID 19 and the safety of our community is paramount.

Remote Learning & In-School Provision

We will continue to support all of our families with **remote learning**, which will be launched on Tuesday 5th January- using Google Classroom for Y1 to Y6 and Tapestry for our EYFS pupils.

We will also continue to support and provide **on site education for the children of our Critical Workers parents and our most vulnerable families. This will include our 2 Year Old Provision to Y6.** Please click on the word Critical Worker, which will take you to the site that identifies [Critical Workers](#) (Key Workers). Please note, to reduce risk in school, **we request that both parents** are classified as critical workers or one parent in a single parent household.

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The school will contact families that are vulnerable to identify and plan with them if they want in school provision for their child/ren. If you are not contacted by Sunday afternoon, please email me (see email details below).

If you do feel you fall under either category, ***you need to email me by this Sunday 3rd January at 1pm.*** I need to have this information as soon as possible so that I can plan staffing accordingly. No child/ren will be able to added to this list after the 4th January, as I will plan staffing according to the numbers of children we expect in school: head@primrosehill.camden.sch.uk

Please identify your child/ren's name and their class and your job as a critical worker.

Once I have finalised the list of Critical Worker & Vulnerable children coming into school on Tuesday 5th January, I will send a letter on Monday to confirm all timings and procedures. Our opening hours will be 9am-3pm.

I would like to reduce risk in school as much as possible, so please make sure that if you are applying for a space for your child/ren, it is your only option as a critical worker or parent of a vulnerable child/ren.

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.

I will continue to post videos, including my assemblies, on our YouTube Channel: [Primrose Hill Primary School](#). In addition, our staff including our Specialist Teachers Tom & Jordan, will continue to post Music & PE lessons.

Technology & Resources at Home

We know from our experience of lockdown and Remote Learning that many families do not have the necessary technology at home for their child/ren to access online learning. We do have some ChromeBooks and iPads at school that we can lend to families. We will be sending you a Google Forms for this later today, so please complete it so we can plan. School will be opened on Monday for parents & carers to collect devices- they will have to sign a waiver upon collection.

In addition, if you need resources such as books, pencils, pens and other stationery we can offer this to families- again this will be included in the online questionnaire we will send out later. ***YOU DO NOT NEED TO COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE IF YOU DO NOT NEED EITHER.***

Reminders of Reporting COVID

It is essential that you inform us about any positive Covid cases or even Covid symptoms of anyone in your household. From Monday 4th January, please call the school on: 0207 722 8500 or email

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admin@primrosehill.camden.sch.uk to report any COVID absence or positive tests.

- If ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD DEVELOPS ANY OF THE 3 SYMPTOMS, YOUR WHOLE HOUSEHOLD HAS TO ISOLATE. You need to arrange testing immediately - please call the school if you have any problems with arranging a test.
- **a high temperature** – *this means you or your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature, but if your child's temperature is over 38 degrees, this qualifies as a high temperature IN ADDITION to them feeling hot to touch on their chest or back)*
Please always call 111 or your GP for further guidelines around temperatures, as they will be able to advise you if you should be tested. If they tell you that you have to be tested, then you need to call 119 to arrange this.
- **a new, continuous cough** – *this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you or your child usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)*
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – *this means you've noticed you or your child cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal*
- IF SOMEONE TESTS POSITIVE - ALL MEMBERS of your household AND anyone the positive case has had close contact with MUST isolate for 10 days from last contact- this may include your support / childcare bubble
- If you have had to have someone in your household tested, please email evidence of your tests results- both positive and negative. Your child/ren will not be able to return to school until evidence of a negative test has been obtained and received.

Tier 4 Restrictions & Guidelines

Please ensure you have read and follow all advice and restrictions of Tier 4 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:

- Single parent households or single adults can form a 'support bubble' and can mix with 1 other household.
- Parents are able to form a 'childcare bubble' with only one other household to help with informal (unpaid and unregistered) childcare. This must always be the same household.
- You can continue to do unlimited exercise alone, or in a public outdoor place with your household, support bubble, or with one other person if you maintain social distancing.



Help and Support

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The school community are here to help and support each other, as many of us will feel anxious and worried at the moment. Try to be kind to yourself, keep active, sleep well and stay in touch with loved ones, look out for our virtual coffee mornings, and email us directly if you need advice or support. If you would like to talk to someone about how you're feeling, you can also 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.

At the end of 2020 we were sad to say goodbye to Robin, but our Senior Leadership Team is heartened to know that over the past year, our entire school community has shown extraordinary resilience, flexibility, and kindness. These are qualities that will help to see us through what has been a challenging period and of which we will always be proud.

I will continue to record videos and messages for our school community over the coming weeks - please remember to email me if you need anything, I am here to help and support each one of you.

Kind regards,

Mireille Alwan & SLT

Acting Head Teacher & Senior Leadership Team

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