



Lady Margaret Primary School

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Head teacher: Mrs H Rai MA NPQH

Chair of Governors: Mr S Prebble

Deputy Head teacher: Miss L Simpson

Deputy Head teacher: Miss P Bal

School Business Manager: Mrs A Hancock



Dear Parents and Carers

On the 30th December, the government confirmed that primary schools in Tier 4 areas, where the infection rate is rising rapidly, should not open until 18th January 2021 at the earliest. All schools in Ealing will be affected, including Lady Margaret School. Despite the very late notice we have ensured that we have a good level of remote learning in place, which was enhanced during the autumn with the introduction of live teaching using Microsoft Teams. Combined with the planned activities on J2e we can provide a reasonable level of educational continuity during the pandemic.

To meet the requirements of the most recent guidance from the Department for Education, I am writing to inform you that the school will be **closed to all children on Monday 4th January** to allow us to organise provision for vulnerable pupils and those whose parents are critical workers and cannot look after their children at home. Unlike last summer, this will be education provision rather than childcare and therefore there are some issues that we need plan for during Monday. Today I met with senior staff and we are reconvening tomorrow, but further work will be required on Monday involving all teaching and support staff.

It is important to recognise that we are now dealing with a situation that is more serious than last summer in terms of pressure on hospitals, and therefore I am requesting that you take careful note of the following information.

- Children who the school regard as vulnerable or at risk will be asked to return to school from Tuesday. This should not be taken as an optional request and where children remain at home against the school's advice, they will be marked as absent and this may be followed up by local agencies.
- If you are a critical worker - where your work is related to; frontline health services, deliveries of vital foods and medicines, the emergency services, teaching or supporting in schools etc. your child will be able to attend school. In such cases children will be required to attend daily and not on a part time basis as this is not childcare like last summer.

Please consider whether your child's attendance is absolutely necessary as the less people that are in school, the better and safer that will be.

In school your child will be supervised in year group bubbles (not class bubbles) completing the remote teaching activities that their classmates will be participating in at home. It is unlikely that many teachers will physically be in school, but they will be teaching using Microsoft Teams, recorded lessons, and online activities.

You have been sent a text message asking you to indicate whether critical worker education is needed for your child. Our aim is to help suppress the transmission of the new strain of coronavirus so I would ask you to consider whether you feel this provision is necessary for your child. The survey will close at 12 noon on Monday 4th January 2021 after which we will be able to finalise our planning for the next two weeks.

Thank you for your continued support.

Helen Rai

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H.R.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Helen Rai
Headteacher