



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

E-mail: admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk

Interim Head of School: Mrs Alice Shaw

Interim Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

9th December, 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff

Following notification of several confirmed cases of Covid-19 at St John's in the last 24 hours, Islington local authority advised the school to close for today whilst we reassessed the situation. This included carrying out new risk assessments for each new positive case of Covid-19 to identify any potential contacts. There were 3 new confirmed cases of Covid-19 that required new risk assessments.

Close contacts

After completing the new risk assessments, **twelve members of staff** and **all the children who eat school lunch** have been identified as contacts and will need to self-isolate at home **until Friday, 18th December**. This is in addition to the three members of staff who have already tested positive for Covid-19 and who will also need to isolate at home. The 15 members of staff who are either positive or who have been identified as contacts of positive cases are from every bubble and department in the school.

There are also currently three other members of staff who are symptomatic and awaiting test results and a fourth member of staff who has been contacted by track and trace and is required to self-isolate for 14 days.

This is a significant reduction in our staffing capacity and equates to well over 50% of our staff team. We are unable to run the school safely in these conditions. We have therefore needed to make the exceedingly difficult decision of **closing the school for the remainder of this term.**

As a staff, we are incredibly disappointed and upset that we are unable to make it to the end of the year. We have all worked hard throughout the term to keep each other safe and to date we have only had to close one bubble. The staff team will continue to work hard to provide the children with high quality remote learning and access to fun, end of term Christmas activities for the remainder of this academic year.

Remote learning

Your child will be provided with remote learning via Google Classroom whilst the school is closed. If you have trouble accessing Google Classroom, please email the school office or contact your child's class teacher via Class Dojo as they will be able to help you. Please support your child with their home learning as much as possible. Primary schools are required to provide 3 hours home learning activities for each child during school closures. The remote learning policy has been attached to this email. Each class teacher will arrange a video call with the class every day.





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End of term Christmas activities- the final week

The final week before Christmas is always an exciting and fun time in school. The teachers will ensure that the children are able to participate in the usual final week festive activities just as they would do if they were in school, this will include quizzes, movies and games.

Communication

You can contact your child's class teacher via Class Dojo. You can contact any member of staff via the school admin email address admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk. If you have a specific question about your child's learning, please contact the class teacher directly.

Free School Meals

If you are receiving benefits, please contact the school office who will support you receive your free school meals during the school closure.

We are fully aware of how difficult this will be if you are a working parent and for families with several children at home or other commitments. Please rest assured that this decision has not been taken lightly and that this is a last resort.

The leadership team, school governors, the local authority and public health England are looking carefully into this situation to ensure that we will not be in this position again. This will include revisiting our whole school risk assessment and putting in additional protective measures.

This is an incredibly frustrating situation for everyone involved however we would like to reassure you that public health England have informed us that our risk assessment was rigorous and that this situation was unfortunate. The staff team are ready to support you through this school closure in any way that we can.

My thoughts are with every member of the school community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything that I can do to help.

With best wishes,

Mrs Read

