



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

Saturday 2nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

PLEASE READ THIS LETTER TO THE END – IMPORTANT INFORMATION ENCLOSED

I am sure that this letter will come as no surprise to many of you. Although you will be aware that we can only follow government guidance, I would like to apologise for any inconvenience or upset these sudden changes may cause.

Yesterday, after protests from nine local authority leaders, the government announced that all primary schools in COVID-19 'hot spots' would remain shut for pupils until Monday 18th January 2021. Therefore, **St. John's Highbury Vale will not be fully open to all pupils until Monday 18th January 2021.**

As a result of yesterday's incredible U-turn, we will now open to those pupils identified as children of 'critical workers and or vulnerable pupils.' For all other remaining pupils, we will be operating remote learning through Google Classroom and Zoom. **This will start from Tuesday 5th January 2021; Monday 4th January will remain as an INSET day.** We will expect all children to engage with remote learning; join in with registration each day, complete tasks and communicate with adults as required.

If you require a laptop/chromebook in order to access remote learning, please contact the school via the usual email address, admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk and we will organise for one to be loaned to you.

As a school, we have been preparing for an occasion such as this; however, in order for this to run as smoothly as possible, we will need to know which children we are expecting to be in school and which children will be taught at home. If you are a critical worker, please contact the school via email with the following information: your child's full name and year group and which category of critical worker you fall in to by Sunday 3rd January 2021. The information below will help you to do this.

If parents fall into one of the following categories, they are identified as a 'critical worker' and your child should attend school from **Tuesday 5th January 2021.** This includes the following:

Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

Health and social care

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.





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Education and childcare

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

Key public services

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

Local and national government

This only includes:

- those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arm's length bodies

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food:

- production
- processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods

Public safety and national security

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas





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Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors

If you are unsure and have any questions regarding your eligibility under the above criteria, you will be able to contact the school from Monday 4th January at 9am.

We will contact those families of children identified as 'vulnerable' on Monday 4th January to notify you.

In order to avoid any confusion, we will continue to operate as we have throughout the Autumn Term with staggered starts, different entrances and bubbles. This way, when our whole school community returns, there will be a smooth transition.

We will also continue to run Breakfast Club for those families that require this service.

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your ongoing support and cooperation. I wish we were all returning as usual to school, but if we continue to work together in partnership, I hope that we can keep the St. John's community safe for all.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year and looking forward to seeing you soon.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Tonnie Read

Interim Executive Headteacher

