



31st December 2020

SCHOOL REOPENING SPRING TERM 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly I hope that this letter finds you all safe and well and that you were able to relax and enjoy your Christmas. You will have heard yesterday about the plans for schools to reopen after the Christmas holiday. Part of the Prime Minister's and Education Secretary's plans is for primary schools where the infection rate is high and is continuing to rise **not to fully reopen on the week commencing January 4th 2021.** In order to help contain the community transmission of Coronavirus, some restrictions to primary education settings are required in certain areas.

Unfortunately even with the current measures and restrictions that are in place, Hertsmere has been designated as an area where children will NOT be returning to school. **As a result I can confirm that Parkside Community Primary School will not be returning on Tuesday 5th January as planned.**

We will however be open for children of critical workers who have no choice but to send their child to school and for those children who are particularly vulnerable.

Vulnerable children are considered as the following:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
- children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
- adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
- those living in temporary accommodation

The full list can be viewed by clicking this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Critical Workers have been classified as those working in the following sectors:

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.

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:

- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of:

- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), including in government agencies and arms 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 (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

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)
- 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

Please consider carefully if your child needs a place at school or if they can work from home safely.

YOU MUST LET THE SCHOOL OFFICE KNOW IF YOUR CHILD NEEDS A PLACE AT SCHOOL FROM TUESDAY 5TH JANUARY 2021 BY FRIDAY 1ST JANUARY 2021 AT 3PM

Remote learning will commence on Tuesday 5th January and will follow a similar format to the previous remote learning during the first lockdown which took place earlier in the year. Teachers will post work on their respective class pages on the school website daily and weekly class ZOOM calls will commence from the week beginning 4th January (further updates will be given about this next week). For those of you who may struggle to access on line learning work packs will be made available for you to collect from **TUESDAY 5th JANUARY.**

SCHOOL MEALS

The school kitchen will remain open from January 5th 2021 and children will be offered a choice of either a meat dish or jacket potato from the current menu for Spring 2021. Children who are in receipt of a Free School Meal who are not able to attend school, further information will be given about your meals as soon as we hear from the government or the county.

I understand that you may have many questions regarding the latest announcements but I would kindly request that you avoid sending emails at this particular time with specific questions. We are doing everything we can behind the scenes to make sure we are covering every eventuality. The current arrangements are in place for all year groups from Nursery through to Year 6 and will be reviewed on January 18th 2021.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Lyon', is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Headteacher

