



Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

School Closure

A very happy New Year to you all.

I hope this message finds you safe and well and that you were able to enjoy a restful and peaceful festive break, despite the restrictions that were in place. I am sure that like me, you are hopeful that 2021 will bring every member of our school community good health and happiness and that we will all be able to look forward to moving on from the pandemic and focus on better times ahead.

The staff and I are all keeping you and your families in our thoughts during this unprecedented and challenging time. Thankfully, it seems that our school community did not have a high number of positive COVID cases throughout the Christmas holidays. This is due to the vigilance of the staff in school and your families prior to the end of the autumn term and then amongst your households since the 18th December 2020. We recognise that this needs to continue in order to protect the NHS, our families and our staff.

As I am sure you are aware the Government has announced changes to the spring term and confirmed that all schools in London should remain closed for the start of the new term. Last week, Haringey Council notified Headteachers that its schools should not open this given the very high rates of transmission. In light of this, Earlham Primary School will be closed from tomorrow (05.01.21) for at least two weeks.

The School will initially only be open for identified children or the children of critical workers. If your child falls under one of these categories, please contact the school office asap and by 2pm today to confirm that you would like them to attend school. If you are a keyworker please send proof of your keyworker status. We appreciate that this may not be an easy decision for you to make and would be happy to discuss this with you. Please note that our office team will be attending an important meeting this morning (as part of our training day) until 11am so please leave a message on the school answerphone or send an email to the school office confirming your child's name, class and year group. A member of our office or senior leadership team will then contact you to request further information. If at any time during the next two weeks your child or household member has symptoms/tests positive for COVID-19, your child will not be able to attend school. Given the very high rates of transmission in our local area, if it is possible that your child can stay at home with other supervision (eg. with a non-key worker partner, spouse or other adult member of the household), please keep them at home and participate in the school's remote learning programme.

Remote Learning

Remote Learning will be provided for all children from 9am on Tuesday 5th January. Class Teachers will teach children remotely via Google Classrooms. It is very important that you child participates in online

activities on a daily basis so if you have any problems with accessing Google Classrooms or do not have access to a computer, tablet or laptop, please contact the school office. As a school, our staff are well prepared for this and whilst online learning cannot completely replace face to face teaching, we are confident that this will be a positive learning experience for our pupils. If you need assistance with this or any other matter, staff will be able to help you.

Safeguarding

Now more than ever, we need to keep safe. In addition to washing hands, keeping a distance from people and self-isolating where necessary, we also need to remind our children how to stay safe online. In addition to encouraging your child to access their Google Classroom on a daily basis, please monitor their use of online technology.

If you have any safeguarding concerns during the school closure, please email the school office. A member of our safeguarding team will then make contact with you. The email should be headed "Safeguarding". Briefly state your concerns to enable us to determine what action needs to be taken. Alternatively you can also contact the NSPCC by email at help@nspcc.org.uk or by telephone on 0808 800 5000.

Safety

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that you should keep your child at home if they or any other member within their household are showing signs of Coronavirus symptoms. Only send your child to school once a negative result has been received, otherwise, please isolate for the recommended 10-day period.

We are continuing to monitor the positive covid-19 cases and therefore, you must inform the school if your child's test is positive at the earliest opportunity.

Support for families

The free school meal voucher scheme will continue until we return to school. Any parent or carers having problems accessing their voucher or requiring additional support during the school closure should contact the school office.

We appreciate that this is a very challenging time for many of you and acknowledge the difficulties this may cause especially for working parents. We hope very much to be able to fully re-open the school as soon as possible when we are notified that it is safe to do so, and will keep you informed as to any developments.

Thank you for all of your ongoing support – one of the many significant strengths of Earlham's community is our positive school / family partnership and communication. These qualities have seen us through these challenging times and will continue to do so over the next few weeks and months.

Keep well and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

N Rezai

Natasha Rezai

Headteacher