



Handsworth Primary School

HANDSWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Handsworth Avenue
Highams Park
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@HandsworthNews

Friday 1st January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! 2020 was a real challenge for all of us on so many levels. However, as I have said many times before, it has allowed us to appreciate what a wonderful, supportive community we are. I remember hearing the lockdown announcement back in March so clearly, little did we know we would still be in this situation today. In true Handsworth style, we will remain positive and look to the future, hoping for a happier, healthier 2021.

There will, of course, be many mixed emotions regarding the Government's decision to move some primary schools in Tier 4 to online learning. Handsworth will be moving to online learning from Tuesday 5th January – Friday 15th January. You can find more information here: [Education Contingency Framework](#).

We understand the decision to delay the full re-opening of schools is to prevent further spread of the virus. Our aim has always been to have all our children in school. The staff want nothing more than our children to be able to attend school and fill the classrooms with laughter and learning. We are so proud of how last term we managed to give our children such wonderful experiences and we saw them bloom! However, the sudden rise in cases was very evident amongst the Handsworth community and I take this opportunity to wish those of you who have been affected by this virus a speedy recovery. We still have to make sure we follow guidelines and keep ourselves and others safe.

Online Learning

As in the previous lockdown, we will continue to provide online learning for the children via our school website. We have learnt so much over the past 9 months and feel confident that we are able to engage the children in their learning. We understand it is a challenge for those of you working from home, please continue to feed back to us and let us know how we can help you further. From Tuesday 5th January, we will be uploading videos for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children will be able to access Zoom lessons from their teachers. We ask for your patience with any teething problems as we roll this out. We hope that ultimately the children will have more opportunities to engage with the online learning. Class teachers will be informing their classes of the plans via the class page on Tuesday 5th January.

Resources

If you need any resources, for example, pencils, paper or books, then you are able to come in to school on **Wednesday 6th January** to collect them. The school office will be open throughout and will happily assist with printing anything from the website or helping with any queries you may have. You are also able to borrow laptops and iPads if needed. We also have data SIMS available to allow your family to access the internet if this is an issue. Please email the school with any requests.

Children of Critical Workers

As you know, we will be open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children. Please click [here](#) if you would like to request a place for your child. The school day will begin at 8.50am and finish at 3.30pm. Where possible, children will engage with the same work that is being set for their peers via the school website. Children in Nursery and Reception will be learning through continuous provision as they normally do in school. School dinners will be available and these can be paid for via the school shop, or children can bring in a packed lunch. We will continue to follow our risk assessment and ensure children wash their hands often. Please make sure children wash their hands before they leave the house in the morning and as soon as they get home.





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The children in this group will be forming new 'bubbles.' We will have an Early Years bubble, a Key Stage 1 bubble and a Key Stage 2 bubble. Please remember Early Years is Nursery and Reception, Key Stage 1 is Year 1 and 2 and Key Stage 2 is Year 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Please can children wear school uniform, we find that this helps them to settle in to school and helps in maintaining some normality for them. We will also be keeping windows and doors open as much as possible and using the outside space at every opportunity so please make sure your children have lots of layers and a warm coat, hat and gloves.

Children in the Early Years bubble will be in classroom RAO, children in Key Stage 1 will be in 3LB and Key Stage 2 will be in classroom 4BD. We will be around on Tuesday morning to show you where to go if you are unsure. It is very important only 1 adult drops your child to school and collects and again we ask you to keep your distance from others and wear a mask.

YMCA will not be offering wrap around care for the children of critical workers or vulnerable children. We are currently communicating with Yellow Birds as they may be able to offer support for us. Please email the school office if you require before or after school club for your child and we will contact you as soon as we have more information.

Testing and Self Isolation

You will have seen that secondary schools are being asked to provide testing for their children. This is not the case in primary school currently. We will continue to ask all members of the school community who have Covid-19 symptoms to get a test and isolate until receiving a negative result. Members of staff are able to get tests without showing symptoms and have been given tests to use before the start of term. If we have a positive case in the school community, contacts will be asked to isolate for 10 days.

What Next?

We hope we will all be back together on 18th January and can once again start to reconnect as a school community. We will wait for further updates and guidance from the government. We will continue to review and amend our risk assessment to ensure that all possible measures are put in place before we invite all children back to school. Please continue to get in touch if you need anything or we can support you in anyway. Don't be afraid to ask questions!

Thank you for your ongoing support, I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Claire Nairne

HEADTEACHER: Claire Nairne
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER: Afua Addai-Diawuo