

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear parent/carer,

Firstly, I would like to wish you a very Happy New Year. I hope you and your families had an enjoyable break.

I had planned to write a very different letter to you as we approach the start of a new term. Having had a very difficult Autumn Term, we were hoping that we would be welcoming back all our staff and pupils to school. You will have seen and heard in the news that Newham has been identified as one of the areas with very high infection rate of the Covid-19 virus. This means that all schools in the borough will be closed **for an initial two-week period from the start of the Spring Term (between Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021)**, for all pupils except those identified as vulnerable or children of critical workers.

As Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January is a staff training day, remote learning on Google Classroom will begin at 9:00am on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Please check the list on the next page for vulnerable and critical worker categories.

If your child meets one of the two categories and needs to attend school, you must email details of their name, class, and days they will be in, as well as proof of employment if you are a critical worker to [info@vicarage.newham.sch.uk](mailto:info@vicarage.newham.sch.uk) **no later than 10:00am on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January**. We will write to those parents with further information later that day. Please note that children attending school will also be having remote learning on Google Classroom.

We are awaiting further information from the Local Authority regarding free school meals for children who are entitled to them.

It is very important that we continue to follow Government guidance on keeping ourselves and others safe. I will continue to keep you updated as more information is sent to schools from the Local Authority and the Department for Education.

Warmest Regards,

Shabana Khan  
Head Teacher

### **Vulnerable children include those who:**

- 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 at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
  - those living in temporary accommodation
  - those who are young carers
  - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
  - care leavers
  - others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

### **Critical workers include those who:**

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition 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.

#### **Education and childcare**

- 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**

- 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, and the delivery of and response to EU transition 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**

- production
- processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

### **Public safety and national security**

- 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 and EU transition)
- 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

### **Transport and border**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure through which supply chains pass.

### **Utilities, communication and financial services**

- 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

