

ESSEX PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Executive Head Teacher: Mrs Cecilia Mojzes

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3rd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following [this week's announcement by the Department for Education](#) that it will be implementing its School Contingency Plan, we can confirm that school **will not be re-opening to most pupils during the week commencing January 4.**

We understand the anxiety and inconvenience this will cause, and we are sorry to have to share this news with you. However, Covid-19 infection and transmission rates in Newham remain extremely high, and it is important that we all play our part in trying to reduce the risk to our communities, our colleagues and our loved ones.

The government's contingency plan introduces additional extraordinary restrictions on schools in areas with very high rates of Covid-19 infection or transmission, as is the case in Newham.

While school is closed, we will be working with the local authority to set up testing for staff and teachers, to help pave the way for a safer return to face-to-face learning as soon as possible. In the meantime, we will be providing substantial remote learning for pupils at home, and will remain open to vulnerable children and children of critical workers.

The government has not yet indicated when primary school pupils will be able to return to lessons, although they have said that they hope for this to be as soon as possible and will review the situation every two weeks. The first review is expected on 18th January 2021, and we will update parents and carers as soon as we know more about return to school arrangements.

In the meantime, you can continue to play your part in helping to reduce infection rates in Newham by sticking to the Tier 4 restrictions and staying at home as much as possible.

Further information about Tier 4 restrictions in Newham can be found on the council's website here: <https://www.newham.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/c19-information-advice> and we have published some additional frequently asked questions below:

FAQs:

Q. Will you be offering online learning while school is closed?

A. Yes – Each year group will have one live zoom session daily and work set in google classroom for the rest of the day.

Q. We don't have access to a tablet or computer/internet – how can my child access online learning?

A. Please contact the school on info@essex.newham.sch.uk



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Q. Will my child continue to be provided with free school meals while school is closed?

A. Yes. We will make arrangements for those children who receive free school meals, using a voucher system

Q. I am a critical worker – will school be open for my child?

A. Yes, we will make provision for critical worker children to attend school. You must complete the form sent to you via PING.

Q. I think I may be a critical worker? How can I be sure?

A. Further information on critical workers and vulnerable children can be found on the government website here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Q. My child goes to school in an area where schools are remaining open. What happens to them?

A. If your child usually attends a school that is remaining open, they should continue to attend as usual. You may contact your specific school for further information.

Yours sincerely,

C Mojzes

Cecilia Mojzes
Executive Headteacher