

Benhurst Primary School

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Acting Head teacher: Mrs K. Hart BSC (Hons)

Thursday 29th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID-19 positive tests - School partial closure for YR, Y1, Y2, Y4 & Y5

Yesterday, we were advised of 5 further confirmed cases of COVID-19 within Benhurst Primary School. This brings the total number of staff who have tested positive since the weekend to 8. As a result of this, we also currently have 16 members of staff who are required to self-isolate. There have been no reported positive tests for any children at Benhurst. The staff absences affect almost every year group and following consultation with Public Health England, the Trust and the Chair of Governors, it has been agreed that some year groups will remain at home next week (Monday 2nd to Friday 6th November).

Year Group	Decision	Home Learning
YR	Work from home next week. Children and key staff to return to school on Monday 9 th November.	From Monday 2 nd November, learning will be posted on Google Classroom - https://classroom.google.com/h . Please email Mrs McCarthy if you have any difficulties sdmccarthy@benhurst.havering.sch.uk
Y1	Work from home next week. Children and key staff to return to school on Monday 9 th November.	From Monday 2 nd November, learning will be posted on Google Classroom - https://classroom.google.com/h . Please email Mrs McCarthy if you have any difficulties sdmccarthy@benhurst.havering.sch.uk
Y2	Work from home next week. Children and key staff to return to school on Monday 9 th November.	From Monday 2 nd November, learning will be posted on Google Classroom - https://classroom.google.com/h . Please email Mrs McCarthy if you have any difficulties sdmccarthy@benhurst.havering.sch.uk
Y3	All children should return to school on Monday 2 nd November.	
Y4	Work from home next week. Children and key staff to return to school on Monday 9 th November.	From Monday 2 nd November, learning will be posted on Google Classroom - https://classroom.google.com/h . Please email Mrs McCarthy if you have any difficulties sdmccarthy@benhurst.havering.sch.uk
Y5	Work from home next week. Children and key staff to return to school on Monday 9 th November.	From Monday 2 nd November, learning will be posted on Google Classroom - https://classroom.google.com/h . Please email Mrs McCarthy if you have any difficulties sdmccarthy@benhurst.havering.sch.uk
Y6	All children should return to school on Monday 2 nd November.	



Why does the school need to close these Year Groups?

The enforced closure in YR, Y1, Y2, Y4 and Y5 is due to one or more staff members in the Year Group testing positive for COVID - 19. Children and staff in these year groups who have been in direct prolonged contact with the individuals confirmed to have tested positive for COVID-19 will need to self-isolate for 14 days from their last date of contact.

Does my child have to self-isolate?

The staff who reported positive test results were in YR, Y1, Y2, Y4 and Y5. This means that the children and staff in these year groups who have been in direct prolonged contact with the individuals confirmed to have tested positive for COVID-19 will need to self-isolate for 14 days from their last date of contact (Friday 23rd October). **This means children in these year groups should self-isolate until Friday 6th November.**

When self-isolating, it is essential that the children and staff do not leave the house unless for an emergency. Household members do not need to self-isolate as they themselves have not been in direct contact with the positive case.

Can siblings still attend school?

Pupils in Years 3 and 6, including the siblings of pupils who are isolating, should continue to attend school. We understand it may be a challenge for some parents to make the necessary arrangements to look after one child who is self-isolating whilst getting another child to school. Where it is not possible to safely bring siblings into school, we understand some children may be absent from school. Work will be added to Google Classroom to support these children.

What measures are the school taking in light of the positive cases?

We continue to work closely with Public Health England and the Trust and will review our Risk Assessment, making changes where advised. In addition to the half term cleaning which has taken place, we have arranged a full deep clean of all areas of the school.

Will school dinners be served for the two remaining Year Groups?

Yes, school dinners will be available as normal. These can be ordered in the usual way.

Will Abacus remain open for the 2 remaining year groups?

Unfortunately, Abacus Breakfast and After School club will be unable to open next week. They will re-open on Monday 9th November.

Will Year 6 Booster groups still be running?

Due to significant staff absences, we will be unable to run Year 6 Booster groups next week. These will resume as normal from Monday 9th November.

What do I do if a member of your household displays COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test result?

If your child displays symptoms or is tested positive for COVID-19, please immediately email myself immediately and include a contact mobile number.

khart@benhurst.havering.sch.uk

Please accept our sincere apologies for any inconvenience this decision may cause. We would not have taken this decision unless it was the only safe option. Please let the school know if we can support you in any way through the next couple of weeks.

Take care and stay safe.
Yours sincerely,

K. Hart

Mrs K Hart
Acting Head Teacher