

Benhurst Primary School

Benhurst Avenue
 Elm Park
 Hornchurch
 Essex
 RM12 4QS

Tel: 01708 450807
 Email: office@benhurst.havering.sch.uk
 Website: www.benhurst.havering.sch.uk
 Twitter: @BenhurstPrimary



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

Sunday 1st November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID-19 positive tests – School partial closure for YR, Y1, Y2, Y3 Y4 & Y5

Since I last wrote to you on Thursday, we have been advised of 6 further confirmed cases of COVID-19 within Benhurst Primary School. This brings the total number of staff who have tested positive to 12. In addition, we have two pupils who have tested positive. The positive results are either within bubbles that are already isolating or the individuals became symptomatic more than 48 hours after their last contact with the school community and in this case, Public Health have confirmed additional children and staff do not need to isolate as a result.

As numbers of positive cases rise nationally, we also have a number of staff members who are isolating as a result of test and trace notifications or family members who have tested positive. These cases are not linked to Benhurst Primary School however, impact on our staffing numbers and our capacity to safely re-open for 2 year groups as we had previously planned to do.

The Trust and the Chair of Governors have decided that the school will now close to Year 3 as well as Year R, Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 5 from Monday 2nd November until Friday 6th November. School will remain open to Year 6 pupils.

Year Group	Decision	Home Learning
YR - 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.

The enforced closure in Y3 is due to limited staff resources in order to open this year group.



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. The children in Year 3 do not need to self - isolate as they have not been in contact with a positive case.**

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 Year 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.

Will school dinners be served for the remaining Year Group?

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

Will Free School Meal vouchers be issued?

A £15 voucher will be issued to the parents of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium in Years R - 5. This does not include Infant Universal Free School Meals. You will be contacted by the school if you are eligible to receive this voucher with further details.

We do not have access to a device in order to complete remote learning, what shall we do?

We have a limited number of devices available to loan to families for remote learning purposes. Please use the following link to apply if you think you need one:

<https://forms.gle/EHcmp9zXGVJBkeKQA>

We have already had 57 applications for devices and will need to allocate these taking into account family circumstances and year group of pupils. Only 1 device per family will be issued as we do not have a sufficient amount at the current time.

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. These will be communicated to parents in due course. In addition to the half term cleaning which has taken place, a full deep clean of all areas of the school has now been undertaken.

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 tests 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 have communicated this to you as soon as the information was presented to us and a decision could be made. 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 week ahead.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

K. Hart