

Benhurst Primary School

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Head teacher: Mrs K. Hart BSc (Hons)

Wednesday 6th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following Monday night's Government announcement of a national lockdown, and the letter from Julian Dutton, the LIFE CEO, which we have also shared with you, I am writing to confirm that Benhurst Primary School will be closed until at least Friday 12th February except for key worker children and vulnerable children. We have been told this will be reviewed by the Department for Education nearer the time and shared with schools. We will continue to update you as we receive further information.

We will continue to provide remote learning via Google classroom with some live content each day through this period of lockdown. Our full remote learning provision can be found here. This contains details of how to overcome difficulties should they arise.

<https://benhurst.havering.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CV-19-Online-Remote-Learning-and-Communication-Information-for-Parents.pdf>

The feedback we have received to date about the live lessons has been very positive and we hope your child is enjoying engaging with their peers and teachers in this way. You are doing a great job supporting your children in very challenging circumstances. Please don't be too hard on yourself or worry if a day of home learning doesn't go as planned - there is always tomorrow! I would love to share the children's home learning on Twitter so please do send photographs to [twitter@benhurst.havering.sch.uk](https://twitter.com/benhurst.havering.sch.uk) and I will tweet these. We will also continue to share the learning taking place in school.

The Government guidance is clear that Primary schools should only allow **children of critical workers and those defined as vulnerable** to attend. **School places for the children of critical workers should only be considered when necessary.** If you have requested a place for your child in school, please consider whether it is essential for them to attend school. If at any point you no longer require the place in school, please email and make me aware. The attendance of children in school will be monitored in the usual way, please report any absences by emailing Mrs Bastin (gbastin@benhurst.havering.sch.uk). We will contact the families of any pupils who have requested and accepted a place but do not attend.

Supermarket vouchers were issued yesterday to all eligible pupils who will not be attending school during the closures. Please email me if you experience any difficulties. If your circumstances have changed, you may now be entitled to receive Free School Meals. Follow the link for further information and to apply.

https://www.havering.gov.uk/info/20006/schools_and_education/431/school_support

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to our staff who have been fantastic over the last few weeks. They have juggled their home life, family commitments and work responsibilities incredibly well during this challenging and ever-changing time to support the school as best they can. It is a privilege to work with such dedicated and caring people.



At this time, we expect closures to be in place until Friday 12th February with further Government guidance expected before that time. I will continue to update you as I receive further information.

Please contact me should you have any further questions or require any additional support. (khart@benhurst.havering.sch.uk)



Take care and stay safe.
Yours sincerely,



Mrs K. Hart
Head teacher

