



Thursday 31st December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

HJS School Closure - January 2021

Following the announcement from the Secretary of State for Education on Wednesday, Richmond has been identified as one of the London Boroughs where the restrictions set out in the Contingency Framework apply. This will mean that at the start of the spring term we will only be open to children of critical workers and vulnerable children. We will provide home learning for the children who will not be in school. This will be reviewed by the Government by the 18th January. Given the late notice of this guidance, we have agreed with our Chair of Governors that the spring term will begin on **Tuesday 5th January** for children of critical workers and vulnerable children. This will allow the school to prepare fully for both the children who will be attending and for those accessing home learning. I understand that this is late notice but given the situation, I am sure you understand.

Children of Critical Workers.

The DfE has provided a list of critical workers. Please follow this link to the list: [Critical worker list](#). If you believe that you are a critical worker and you wish your child to attend school full time then please complete this [eform](#).

Vulnerable Pupils

The DfE has provided a list of children who would be described as vulnerable. Please follow the link: [Vulnerable pupils](#). Pupils are expected to attend each day. School staff will be contacting families directly on Monday but please also complete the [eform](#) if you believe your child falls into this group.

Only complete the eform if you believe your child falls into one of these categories. Families completing the eform will need to complete it by 12pm on Saturday 2nd January. The school will then be in touch on Monday 4th January to confirm your child's place and to provide further details. Please complete the eform for each child you wish to register.

Free School Meals

We are currently awaiting guidance from our school meals provider regarding the provision of meals to pupils who are entitled to free school meals. We will update you once we have the information.





Home learning

All HJS classes have Google Classroom set up and I know the children have been practising accessing this. We will be delivering the home learning through this for all classes. However, it is likely class teachers will also be teaching children who will be attending in their classes during the day. All children will have access to the same curriculum. If your child is entitled to free school meals and does not have access to a device to access home learning, please contact the school via info@hampton-jun.richmond.sch.uk by Sunday 3rd January.

Home learning will start on Tuesday 5th January from 9am. If you have any questions or concerns regarding home learning, please contact info@hampton-jun.richmond.sch.uk.

Covid-19 prevention

Whilst only some children will be returning to school, we will be continuing to follow all the guidance regarding the control and prevention of Covid-19. These measures include:

- Children or adults with symptoms should not attend school and should get tested.
- Hand washing or sanitising: the children will cleanse their hands at the beginning and end of the day, before and after break time and at any other point in the day deemed necessary, (more so) in the younger year groups where social distancing is more difficult.
- Years 3 to 6 children will continue to sit in rows, facing the front with a 2 metre gap from the teacher at the front of the class.
- Children taught in class bubbles.
- Classrooms will be ventilated throughout the day.
- Staff will wear masks or visors when in communal areas within the school.
- No parent meetings or visitors unless absolutely necessary. All visitors will be required to wear masks.
- The School Office will remain closed to visitors.
- Drop off and pick up will continue in the same way. Please remember to keep your child with you at all times and remain socially distant from others. Please wear a face covering if you cannot socially distance from others.

Contact

During the last period of school closure, class teachers were able to call all families in their class. However, as class teachers will be teaching each day as well as providing home learning this will not be possible this time. School staff will follow the guidance to schools and will contact families as appropriate in line with the guidance.

If you require a call please email the school via info@hampton-jun.richmond.sch.uk. The school's email account will be monitored regularly.





Wellbeing

We all know that many of our children and families are anxious at the moment and the Educational Psychology Service has placed some very helpful information for children, young people, schools and families on our [local offer](#).

During this period, if you have any safeguarding concerns please call Richmond Single point of Access (SPA) on 0208 547 5008 or 0208 744 2442

Finally

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the school staff for their dedication since September. The current situation is challenging to all concerned and maintaining a calm and professional approach has meant that the children's experience in school has been really positive.

Whilst these are very challenging times and difficult decisions are having to be made at very short notice, we would also like to thank you, our parent community for the support and kind words the staff have all received; it really is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Executive Leadership Team





Top Tips for home learning and managing self-isolation

- Learning at home is not simply replicating school at home. It is not necessary to do six hours of learning like in school. Children will be learning in a home environment and so more intense focus will be given to their learning. It is important that children try to attempt the activities which are set each day but if they are struggling to cope, then you must inform the class teacher, who will be able to support you.
- A schedule is important. Children really thrive on predictability, especially when life is changing around them. Creating a weekly or daily plan of activities and then reading the plan together or sticking the plan up somewhere for reference is useful. This should include breaks for play and lunch times.
- A suggested structure could be; maths, reading and writing in the morning, with creative time in the afternoon, and time outside either in the garden or a quick walk in the local area. Your class teacher will suggest a timetable for the activities to help.
- It is vital that whatever age your child is, they do 10-20 minutes daily reading while at home. This could be a child reading aloud to a parent or independent silent reading. Other reading opportunities to supplement this could include a parent reading a story to the child or listening to an audiobook.
- We know when people are faced with uncertainty or worry, having some certainties, for example through a bit of structure, could really help.
- At first, some children may feel excited by being off school. The reality is days on end of playing Xbox and watching movies may not be as fun as we think and it is about getting a balance - having a structure and integrating some fun.
- It would be helpful to distinguish weekdays and weekends to support children to feel safe and secure and have a sense of time.
- Thinking about the environment is also important. This is not about setting up a classroom in the living room but you may want to create a designated space for children to do activities.
- Try to plan some one-on-one time with the children if you have more than one child at home. Some activities will also be designed to allow children some opportunity for working independently.
- Make sure you try to factor in time for yourself as being a parent can be very intense especially in the current circumstances.

