



15th January 2021

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Thank you all for your continued support during these challenging times. I recognise just how difficult the current situation is for parents – juggling home schooling and work, looking after yourselves and the family, and managing through the national lockdown restrictions.

The current situation is very different to when the HPP schools partially closed (it was still open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children) in the first lockdown. On one hand, there are considerably more children in school than last time, which places significant burden on the HPP staff to manage the children's education both physically and virtually. Currently, around 35% of all children are still at school (compared to less than 10% in the first lockdown).

On the other hand, the school has used the experiences gained over the last 10 months, and continuously evolve and refine the health and safety processes, risk assessments, and the tools and technologies for home learning. The school issued a letter earlier this week about some additional improvements being made to the home learning program, with more pre-recorded videos, and an element of live learning too. Please complete the relevant eForm to provide your consent to any live learning.

One of the critical agenda items that the HPP Governing Board discusses on a regular basis is the wellbeing of staff. Even before the pandemic struck, Ofsted had placed greater emphasis on teacher wellbeing and its impact on pupil wellbeing. It is also a key area that they assess as part of their school inspections. If we have happy teachers who are delivering great lessons to the best of their ability, we are more likely to have happy pupils with better outcomes.

Naturally, the pandemic, and latest lockdown restrictions, has and will impact staff wellbeing. I think many of you will have seen the extra-long hours the staff are working to meet the demands of all children, regardless of whether they are at school or not. Besides the long hours, the staff are also taking care of their children and families, and putting themselves at risk every day as they cannot work from home. The school leadership team constantly review practices to manage staff wellbeing and the quality of education for children – we obviously do not want to reach a situation where we see staff burnout and

then high levels of absenteeism due to stress-related illness.

I know the staff really appreciate the positive feedback that has been shared by so many of you – please continue to share this by emailing the [info@ school](mailto:info@school) email addresses, and on the HPP social media accounts. Also, feel free to let Ofsted know directly by clicking [here](#).

Finally, there was a clear change of emphasis from the Government last week and clear advice to 'act as if you have the virus' over the next few weeks. If possible, despite the considerable inconvenience, please keep your child at home. The fewer pupils there are at school, the more capacity the staff will have to educate all children, and the burden on staff wellbeing reduces. Of course, if your child meets the Government [criteria](#), then the school will gladly accommodate them.

Here is the official statement from the Government about school attendance (redacted for comments re non-primary schools): "During the period of national lockdown, schools, ... should allow only vulnerable children and young people and the children of [critical workers](#) to attend... All other pupils and students should not attend and should learn remotely until February half term."

Stay safe!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sej Bhabra".

Sej Bhabra
Chair of Governors

governorchair@hampton-jun.richmond.sch.uk

