

# Update regarding the government announcement for primary schools

Dear Parents and Carers

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, primary schools in Lewisham were directed to remain closed after the Christmas holiday to the majority of pupils due to the extremely high COVID19 infection rate within our borough. We understand that this decision will be reviewed by the government on 18<sup>th</sup> January, in line with the latest information on infection rates at that time.

The advice is that where possible parents keep children at home.

We will be following government expectations that only **children of critical workers** and **vulnerable pupils who have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)**; those **with an assigned Social Worker** or **other circumstances listed at the link below** can attend school during this time.

The identified list of vulnerable children and critical workers can be found using the link below:

[Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools](#)

**If you fall into any of the above categories, we are asking you to complete and return the attached questionnaire to [covid@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:covid@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk) as soon as possible and no later than 10am on Monday 4th January.**

This will enable us to plan staffing and catering so that we can give your children the best possible care at this difficult time. We will then contact you to let you know if your child will be able to attend school and when you should bring them in. You must not bring your child to school until you have heard from us.

**In two parent households where only one parent is a critical worker we ask that children are kept at home as this will help to reduce infection rate more quickly.**

**School will be closed to all children on Monday and Tuesday 4/5<sup>th</sup> January for staff training and NOW allow us to put plans in place for these new arrangements.**

Please note that any arrangements for wraparound care, Breakfast or After-school club will be sent out on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

Further information about provision for **all** children during this period will be sent out on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Naheeda Maharasingam

Head Teacher

## Questionnaire for parents/carers

– please return via [\\_covid@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:_covid@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk)

Please only complete these questions **only** if your child has an EHCP, assigned social worker, other vulnerability or if your job comes under one of the critical worker sectors:

Name of parent/carer: .....

Name of child/children and year group/s:

.....  
.....

1. Please tick or highlight:

- My child has an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) [ ]
- My child/children has an assigned social worker [ ]
- My child/children meet other criteria of vulnerability- please contact me to discuss [ ]
- I am a critical worker. [ ]

If you ticked **critical worker**, please identify the appropriate sector from the government list provided with our email that your job comes under:

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3. Please help us by giving as much detail as you can at this time by indicating the following:

- We would need care Monday – Friday, every day. [ ]
- We would need care on these days of the week [ ]

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Whilst we appreciate some working patterns will change, the information you give at this time will help us to consider the number of adults needed in school and the catering requirements for both children and staff.