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14 December 2020

Dear Parents

Earlier today we sent you a text sharing that all Islington schools will close from the end of the school day on Tuesday 15th December 2020. This is due to an alarming rise in cases of covid-19 in Islington. Islington have decided that schools will not reopen until January 11. We will be providing home learning on google classroom for the first week of term. If you have difficulties accessing the online learning please contact the school by the end of the day tomorrow.

Due to our hard work together Robert Blair has been very fortunate to have no closures over the Autumn Term. Most schools have had to send bubbles home on a regular basis. I have been very proud of the children, families and staff commitment to keep everyone safe over this challenging time.

The school is open tomorrow but do not send children in if they are not in good health.

I am sorry that this is such short notice but the council made the decision today. You will be updated with further news on the app and via the school's website. I will give an update on the website by Friday. Please keep following all the covid rules and thank you for your continued cooperation through what has been a difficult term for us all.

Key Points

- ➔ **School closes to all children - The end of the day on Tuesday 15th December 2020**
- ➔ **School opens Monday 4 January for remote learning via Google classroom.**
- ➔ **School reopens to most children - Monday 11th January 2021**



Robert Blair School

Most Supportive Primary Learning Environment - London



Artsmark
Gold Award
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Arrangements for Christmas reporting of positive COVID-19 test results

- If your child gets a **positive COVID test result before Monday 21 December** please email holidayillness@robertblair.islington.sch.uk with the following information:
- **Name of child**
 - **Did the child have symptoms or not?**
 - **What date did symptoms start?** (this can be any feeling of being unwell, not just the three COVID symptoms)
 - **Date that test swab was taken**
 - **Date child was last in school**
 - **Has anyone else been unwell with COVID in your household?**
 - **Your contact phone number in case more information is needed**
- If your child gets **symptoms or tests positive after Monday 21 December, schools do not need to be informed until the first day of the new term.** Instead, please engage with NHS Test and Trace who will be in contact with you.

Best Wishes



Michelle Bahn

Headteacher

Appendix 1: Holiday flowchart for reporting Covid-19

Appendix 2: letter from

Carmel Littleton
Corporate Director
People Directorate

Mark Taylor
Director of Learning and Schools



Christmas Holidays

Should I contact the school about my child's illness?

- We only need to know about illness in the holidays if Covid symptoms have started within 48 hours of your child being in school.
- We will only check the emergency contact – see below.
- We will only respond to messages for this particular purpose.
- If no COVID symptoms are reported by 4pm on Sun. 20 December, we will no longer check the messages.

Does your child have: -a new continuous cough?
-a fever (high temperature over 38°C (using a thermometer)?
-or a complete loss or change of smell or taste?

Yes ↓

No ↓

Did the symptoms start before 2pm on Sunday 20th December?

DO NOT contact the school.
Do not take your child for a test

Yes ↓

No ↓

DO NOT contact the school.
Take your child for a test, follow advice from NHS.
There is no need to inform the school of the result.

You must contact the school to let us know about the onset of symptoms. There will be one emergency contact for this. See instructions below.

Take your child for a test. Your child and your household must self-isolate until you have the result of this test.

Let the school know the result of the test as soon as you receive it, no later than midday on 23rd December. There will be one emergency contact for this. See instructions below.

On 4th January, resume normal procedures for reporting your child's absence.

Emergency contact instructions only for the two specific purposes below:

Reporting symptoms which started before 2pm on Sunday 20 December:

Send the following email to holidayillness@robertblair.islington.sch.uk

'My child (*insert name*) developed COVID symptoms on *Friday 18th Dec/Sat 19th Dec/Sunday 20th Dec (delete as appropriate)* at (*insert time here*).

I will take them for a test and share the results with the school by midday on 24rd December.'

For the subsequent reporting of test results:

Send the following email to holidayillness@robertblair.islington.sch.uk

'My child (*insert name*) has tested *positive/negative (delete as appropriate)* for Covid-19

Dear parents and carers,

Keeping residents safe and well is Islington Council's top priority. The latest Public Health evidence shows that the rate of infection is growing rapidly in the capital, including Islington, which is why we are putting immediate plans in place to keep our schools and communities safe in the coming weeks.

We have asked all schools in Islington to move to online learning for the remainder of the term from the end of Tuesday, 15 December 2020 and to return to school on Monday 11 January 2021. Schools will remain open for children of key workers and vulnerable children during term time. We will continue to provide free school meals for eligible children during term-time and throughout the holiday period.

We are also recommending that Islington Council's early years and children's centre provision follow the same advice, in which case childcare fees will not be charged for children who do not attend after Tuesday, 15 December. We are also advising other nurseries and childminders of the Public Health guidance in order that they can decide on their course of action.

We appreciate that this is likely to cause disruption and we know that you and your children will be disappointed to miss out on the traditional end of term activities as we head toward the festive break, but the current situation means that we must urgently prioritise the health and safety of Islington's residents.

Many families will be thinking carefully about plans for Christmas, including forming a [Christmas bubble](#) with grandparents and other potentially vulnerable loved ones. No matter how much we want to get back to normality, this festive season cannot be normal while we are still tackling coronavirus.

We would strongly encourage people to get a coronavirus test if they have symptoms, so that we can ensure those people that have the virus are identified and we do reduce the risk of further spreading. Testing is quick, easy and free. Islington has two testing sites - at Sobell Leisure Centre and Finsbury Leisure Centre. Getting a test is free and simple: visit nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119.

It's now more important than ever that we stay at home as much as possible to help stop the virus spreading. Avoid crowded spaces, including buses and trains, if you can, as the virus spreads more easily when people mix. Travel or shop at less busy times and follow public health advice:

- **Make space** – stay 2 metres apart from people who aren't in your family or bubble - this helps stop the virus spreading between people
- **Wash your hands** - regularly and for at least 20 seconds, especially when you get home – this washes any virus off your hands and helps stop it spreading
- **Cover your nose and mouth** to stop the virus spreading - in public places, including in shops, on public transport and at the school gates

Know the symptoms of coronavirus - a **high temperature**, or a **new continuous cough**, or a **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** and get tested if you have any of the three symptoms.

If you would like to be kept up-to-date with the most recent updates and resources on what's happening locally, including new testing sites, self-isolation payments and translated materials, then you may want to become a Covid-19 Health Champion. It's a really easy way to help family, friends and other parents get the information they need. You can also come along to a weekly virtual drop-in session with any questions or concerns you have about Covid-19. [Complete a registration form](#).

And now young people can get involved too with the youth version of the programme being launched this week. [Anyone aged 16-18 can sign-up](#).



Throughout the pandemic our top priority has been to keep our residents safe and supported. If you need help or advice, we are here to help, please call us on 020 7527 8222 to find out how we can help with emergency food deliveries, shopping, financial support and benefits.

These are incredibly difficult times, but we know that, by following the public health advice and continuing to support one another, we will get through this together.

Best wishes,

Carmel Littleton
Corporate Director
People Directorate

Mark Taylor
Director of Learning and Schools

If you would like this document in large print or Braille, audiotape, Easy Read or in another language, please telephone 020 7527 2000.