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Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday I wrote to you to explain that Islington Council had strongly advised all Islington schools to move to remote learning from Wednesday 16th December to the end of the term and for the first week of the Spring term.

Since that letter – and you may be aware from news reports yesterday evening and earlier today - the Government have over ruled that decision. Your chair of governors and myself have considered all the available information carefully and have agreed the following.

Robert Blair Primary School has decided to close our school site from today 15th December and move our learning to online for the remaining days of term. We want to explain clearly why this decision has been taken.

The Government yesterday declared all of London to now be a "Tier 3, Very High alert" area due to the rapid rise in Covid-19 infection rates. The analysis provided by the Government shows that the virus is circulating rapidly amongst school-age pupils. Yesterday, the Mayor of London and Islington Council called for schools to take steps that will reduce the risk of further contagion by closing a few days early before the holiday. If the virus spirals out of control, thousands of Londoners will require hospital treatment and we already know the NHS in London is under very severe pressure.

To protect our pupils, parents, staff and wider community, the Headteacher and Governors of your school have decided to close the site and provide online learning to pupils for the remaining 3 days of term. We cannot say for sure whether conditions will have improved after the holiday but we expect to re-open on 11th January at the latest - or earlier if the risk appears to have reduced.

This decision was taken by the school after listening to expert advice and reviewing available options. Our most important responsibility is to safeguard pupils and our duty of care to our staff.

We completely understand that closing the school early causes disruption and inconvenience for parents. The holiday will be a difficult time for many families and we urge you to carefully follow the health precautions to keep you and your family safe over the holiday.

Best Wishes

Paul Convery
Chair of Governors

Michelle Bahn
Headteacher



Robert Blair School

Most Supportive Primary Learning Environment - London



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

