



7th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: School Closure

I thought it important to update you following the Government's announcement to close schools with immediate effect announcements.

As I wrote in my earlier letter we have been concerned about the rapidly increasing rate of infection in our surrounding area and our ability to keep everyone safe in our school setting. Barking and Dagenham has been identified as an area where infection rates are high and the Department for Education contingency framework applies. This change in approach by the Government has given us a sense of relief. We welcome the request to revert to online learning for the majority of our students.

School Opening Arrangements:

We will be open **only** for the children of critical key workers and vulnerable children on both the primary and secondary site.

We appreciate that some of you will not be able to continue the very important work that you do to protect our community if we are closed. Therefore, if you belong to one of these categories may I ask you to consider your decision very carefully. If you have the capacity to care for your child/ren at home, please keep them at home. If you have no other option but to send your child/ren to school please e-mail office@sydneyrussellschool.com to notify us of your intent. You will be required to complete an information form and should they be in year 7 to 11, a consent form for them to have a lateral flow Covid test. This test is crucial for detecting asymptomatic cases and for keeping us all safe. I would be grateful if you would complete the consent form in advance using the link below. This test is crucial in keeping us all safe. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DC7QG8N>

Remote learning began for all of **our primary children and Years 11 and 13**. Remote learning for all other year groups starts on Monday 11th January 2021.

Primary children must log on by 9am.

Secondary students will be expected to log on to Teams at 08:40 where they will be registered by their class teacher or form tutor. The school will operate normal working hours, 8:40 to 3pm and students will follow a normal timetable, albeit remotely. All lessons will run at the following times:

Period 1 – 9am -10am

Period 2 – 10am – 11am

Break – 11am – 11:30am

Period 3 – 11:30m -12:30pm

Period 4 – 12:30pm – 1;30pm

Break – 1:30pm – 2:00pm

Period 5 – 2:00pm – 3pm



Lateral Flow Testing In School:

The school is being supported by the Public health England with the implementation of testing arrangements for students and staff. The current plan is for all staff on site and students on the secondary site to be tested at least once a week

All parent/carers will be required to give consent for their child if they are 16 years or under. This test is crucial in keeping us all safe

Consent forms can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DC7QG8N>

Students Eligible for Free School Meals

The school has arranged for weekly food hampers to be available for all children eligible for Free School Meals. If your child is **Free School Meals** and you wish to receive the weekly school meal pack please e-mail us at office@sydneyrussellschool.com to inform us of your intention and allow us to prepare accordingly. Monday is the designated pick-up day.

Updated Home Learning arrangements:

Our primary students will work from Purple Mash. A weekly overview of the work as well as resources for EYFS will be on the website at the start of the week under the remote learning tab. For pupils who do not have access to a computer or a laptop paper copies of the work will be provided. Your child's teacher will be in contact with you to discuss your child's needs.

Secondary students will be working on Teams. They will follow their normal timetable with their teacher delivering 'live' lessons. These lessons can take a variety of different forms. Your child's teacher will introduce the lesson, perhaps model important aspects of it or run through the assignment that will need to be completed and be available to answer any questions students may have. Again paperbased resources will be made available to students with no access to a computer or laptop.

I apologise for having to contact you constantly with changed information but this appears to a sign of the times we are in. Please be assured that I will do all that is possible to minimise the impact of Covid on your child's education. As a school we are working hard to adapt in order to meet the changing demands placed upon us. Please can I encourage you to make contact with the school if you have any queries or require further support. Due to the current situation the most effective way to communicate with the school is via email. Please either use office@sydneyrussellschool.com

With thanks

Janis Davies
Principal