



City of London Primary Academy Islington
Third Floor
C/O Moreland Primary School
Moreland Street
London EC1 8BB
T: 020 7504 0556
Head Teacher: Ms Kim Clapham

19th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: School closure following government advice

You will be aware of the current state of global emergency due to a new strain of virus, COVID-19 (coronavirus). As a school, and a Trust, we have been constantly checking updates and advice from Public Health England, the Department for Education and the government as the situation has progressed.

The government has recommended that all schools across the country should close from the end of the school day on Friday 20 March 2020 until further notice. **Unfortunately, it has become necessary to close COLPAI one day earlier than national dates due to staff having to self-isolate. We will, therefore, close today at 3:45 pm, Thursday 19th March 2020.** Please accept my apologies for the inconvenience this short notice may cause.

The national closure of schools aims to prevent the virus spreading, particularly in areas where large groups congregate and are in regular contact. The safeguarding of our students and staff is of the utmost importance, so the school will be following government advice and will close as recommended. Parents/carers will be kept updated on the evolving situation via email, text and our website.

Work for students to complete

During the closure period, we will set work for all students to complete. We are fortunate to have a variety of online resources and websites that can ensure students continue their learning whilst not able to attend school.

Your child has been given a City of London Primary Academy home learning bag containing maths, English and French work. As a school we subscribe to the following online learning platforms: Doodle Maths, Doodle English, Busy Things (which covers the foundation subjects) and a computing programme Jit. We are in the process of setting up Google Classroom where teachers will post a daily lesson for pupils. Ms Moorghen will email parents with further details. We ask that all parents/carers speak to their child about the importance of completing schoolwork during the closure period. Staff will be available to provide advice and guidance on work that is set.

All pupils who were absent from school when the home learning bags were disseminated on Thursday 18 March will receive their home learning pack via Royal Mail post. Office staff are implementing a posting plan today.

Supervision and contact details

The safeguarding of our students is always paramount. We want to highlight the importance of supervising pupils during the closure period. We acknowledge that many of our parents/carers work and, in cases where dependency leave is not an option for them, we would strongly recommend that alternative arrangements are made for students to be supervised by friends or family where possible. This is to ensure that students are supported effectively to complete the schoolwork that is set throughout the closure period. If you have significant concerns about your child's supervision during the closure period, please contact the school and we may be able to assist.

It is vital that we have up-to-date contact details for all families. If you have not done so already, please ensure that you inform the school of any changes to your address, phone number and email address. This will enable us to keep you informed of any developments over the next few weeks and will ensure that we are able to contact you with information about your child as appropriate.

COVID-19 – the importance of hygiene and what to do if you have symptoms

It is important for all parents/carers and students to be aware of the advice from the National Health Service (NHS) on prevention and what to do if you have symptoms of COVID-19.

The advice from the NHS on prevention has remained consistent over the past few weeks:

- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- Always wash your hands when you get home or into work
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- Put tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- **DO NOT** touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.

Current NHS advice is to stay at home for fourteen days if you have either:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough.

The NHS also advise that you use their 111 COVID-19 service if:

- You feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
- Your condition gets worse
- Your symptoms do not get better after seven days.

More information, which is constantly updated, can be found on the following sites:

- **NHS** - www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/
- **UK Government** - www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response

Skeletal Education Service for key workers from Monday 23 March 2020

COLPAI will remain open from Monday 23 March 2020 to provide a skeletal school service for children of key workers, vulnerable children and children with an EHCP. An agreed definition of a 'key worker' is to be published later today and so we will contact all families eligible, either by phone or email on Friday 20 March 2020 to make arrangements. This skeletal service will run from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday to Friday. Thank you for replying to the school survey to confirm your profession. Please ensure this email goes to Ms Moorghen: neela.moorghen@islingtonprimary.colpa.org.uk



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Finally, I thank you for your support and understanding during this challenging time. Your many emails of support and thanks to the COLPAI staff are highly appreciated. As the Head Teacher of this very special school, I know you will join me in applauding the truly professional, calm and dedicated work of the teachers, our support staff, governors and volunteers who ensure the children come to school happy and confident to learn. We look forward to welcoming students back to school as soon as possible. In the meantime, our staff are available to assist in any way they can, so please do contact the school email if you have any queries:

Kim.clapham@islingtonprimary.cola.org.uk

Neela.moorghen@islingtonprimary.cola.org.uk

Hasnath.begum@islingtonprimary.cola.org.uk

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Clapham".

Kim Clapham
Head Teacher