

Covid 19 - School Update

January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the Government's announcement regarding schools yesterday, Ealing, along with a large number of other London boroughs, will only be opening schools for vulnerable and critical worker children. As a special school, Castlebar will open for children as planned this Tuesday. However, as Ealing is in Tier 4 and the virus is spreading rapidly, as a parent you may want to keep your child at home. The class teacher will contact you on Monday to find out if you are sending your child into school over the next 2 weeks. If you decide to keep your child at home, please contact transport.

If you do decide to keep your child at home this will be recorded as an approved leave of absence, the class staff will send work home for your child. They will also try each day to connect with your child remotely, via Google Classroom where possible.

Please do not send your child to school if they are symptomatic i.e. if they have:

- A high temperature
- A persistent cough
- Loss of taste or smell

If your child develops these at school, you will need to collect them immediately to avoid any risk of transmission. As a reminder, all symptomatic children and staff have to stay at home/isolate for 10 days or until they have a negative Covid test. If a child or staff member tests positive for Covid the class bubble will have to stay at home/isolate for 10 days.

This is a particularly acute and difficult time in the pandemic and while it is great news that a vaccine is now being rolled out, the virus is spreading even more rapidly. I would encourage all of the Castlebar community to work together to keep transmission to the lowest possible number.

I also need to alert you to the fact that remaining open is dependent on having sufficient staff to supervise children. If we reach a point where there is not enough staff we may have to close fully for safety reasons.

In order to support any children that are being kept at home:

- The school website has a number of activities and links
- Parents are welcome to come and collect activity packs for their children but please phone ahead to let us know that you are coming to collect this work
- You are welcome to phone the school if you want support and advice, although we may be limited with regard to any sort of health advice

Below is some information that you may find helpful.

There are ranges of services some of you may need to access during this period:

Foodbanks located at:

- Acton, Ealing Green, Greenford, Hanwell, Northolt, Southall

You will require vouchers for the Foodbank Service, please contact the school if you need further information.

Also other support

- Salvation Army:
 - Ealing - 8 Leeland Road, Ealing, W13 9HH
Email address: ealing@salvationarmy.org.uk Phone: 020 8840 0348
 - Greenford - Costons Lane, Greenford, UB6 8QT
Email address: kath.davison@salvationarmy.org.uk Phone: 020 8575 8380
- The Southall Black Sisters - Southall Black Sisters ,21 Avenue Road, Southall, UB1 3BL Phone: 020 8571 9595

If you need to contact the school please email us, using the school email address admin@castlebar.ealing.sch.uk or call 020 8998 3135.

We encourage you all to stay safe following the ongoing updates provided by the Government and I hope that 2021 is a better year for us all.

Yours Sincerely



Paul Adair
Headteacher