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2nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I really hope you managed to have a fantastic time with your children despite the circumstances. Please read the message below and **complete the Technology survey** so that we can assess access to remote learning and the **Critical Worker survey** if you believe you are eligible. **Please complete the surveys by 8am Monday 4th January.** There is also information and an attachment regarding **booking a test** for your family.

School Closed Except for Children of Critical Workers

Unfortunately, the impact of the virus is such that Ellingham Primary school will not now be open to all children. You will probably have gathered that the Government has now closed Kingston primary schools for all except children of critical workers and vulnerable children. This decision will be reviewed on 18th January. *Please complete the attached form to advise us on whether you are a critical worker.*

Safety in School and Testing for Ellingham Families

Staff were provided with a test kit before school closed in December and should have the results of these already before returning to school. Rest assured that as well as staff being tested, we have reviewed our risk assessment to ensure that our practice in the classroom and around school remains safe for children returning and staff. In addition, we have been advised by the Kingston Public Health team that you can book an appointment to test your child and yourselves with a rapid result COVID-19 test for **those without COVID-19 symptoms** at the main Kingston University, Penrhyn Road, site. The rapid result test (45 minute appointment in total, 30 minutes for a result) **has been made available from today, starting at 1pm.** All the information and the link to the booking form is in the attached letter. A second rapid-testing site will open shortly. Please note that the parent/carer should complete the form on behalf of the pupil but the family members can attend and register at the same time when arriving at the test site. If you do not receive a confirmation email of your booking, please check your spam folder.

If people have COVID-19 symptoms: a new continuous cough, a high temperature or loss or change in sense of taste or smell, they should book a COVID-19 test by calling 119 or visiting [nhs/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus).

Remote Learning and Technology

This change means that a programme of remote learning will be in place via Google Classroom. The Government expectation is that a full day of learning is provided for all children and we will be working on the timetable now and finalising on Monday during our INSET. This will then be communicated to you. *Please complete the attached form so that we can better understand your child's access to technology.*

We recognise that educating your children at home is very challenging, even if you are not juggling home working as well. However, the impact of the last lockdown cannot be underestimated; there were some very significant gaps created by children missing education. We were feeling very positive about how we were catching the children up but sadly the virus is once again halting progress as well as causing stress and challenges within our community. We would ask that you do implement the timetable of learning and communicate with teachers or the senior leadership team if you are struggling in any way.

A more detailed communication about home learning will be issued on Monday. We will also confirm arrangements for the children of key workers attending school.

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Keogh
Headteacher