



HILLINGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together

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Monday 29th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you managed to have a good weekend amid the latest news. We can only continue to try and remain positive and support each other.

Given the Government's announcement regarding the new COVID-19 variant and a letter to schools from the Department for Education I have decided that we need to reintroduce COVID-19 risk mitigations to keep our school community safe.

1. We ask all parents/carers to start wearing masks again at arrival and dismissal times. If you are genuinely exempt then we would ask you to wear a sunflower lanyard.
2. Please continue to socially distance.
3. Please continue to follow the one way system. (There are a very small number of parents who are exempt and have spoken with us.) This morning there were a couple of parents who did not follow the route. When asked by staff they were rude. This is not how we wish our students to see us engaging even when as adults we disagree. Today it made a difficult situation harder for staff who just want to keep all members of our community safe. Thank-you to the vast majority of parents/carers who continue to support us and do it with a smile. It really makes a difference to us.

"The last two years have been exceptionally hard. Many school staff have gone above and beyond to support children and their families. Many have done this while also supporting vulnerable relatives at home. I am sure that you have done the same for others in your community, workplace or home. Let us hold on to the idea of supporting each other."

Hugh Greenway CEO TEFAT

4. The Year 2, Reception and Nursery shows in the hall are cancelled. There is a possibility that we may be able to sing the songs in the playground however we need to consider the feasibility of this and take account of any updated information from the Department for Education.
5. We had begun to relax the number of parents/carers coming to the school reception with enquiries. Unfortunately we need to return to only the very essential queries being made in person. If parents/carers wish to contact the school then please make contact via the school

email or an email you have been given if you are in discussion with a particular member of staff. The school telephone is also available to parents/carers however we receive a high volume of calls and often an email is quicker.

6. Please make sure that your child is wearing extra layers over their school uniform so that we can keep the classrooms well ventilated and the children warm. The extra layers do not need to be school uniform. We now have Government funded monitors in the classrooms monitoring the air quality.
7. Given the update with regard to COVID-19 it would seem sensible not to have the exchange of a large number of gifts and cards. However, I do know that for many of our families this is an important way of expressing their thanks and best wishes during the festive period. Therefore we encourage any parent/carer or student who wishes to bring in **one** card (rather than individual cards) for their class to do so. The card will then be displayed in class. There is no expectation on parents/carers to send in a gift to staff however if parents/carers would like to send in an inexpensive gift could you please send it in at the beginning of the last week of term (week beginning 13th December 2021). It can then be left for a few days before opening.

I know that social distancing, mask wearing, well ventilated classrooms and regular hand washing makes a difference to the spread of COVID-19. Please continue to encourage your children to wash their hands regularly and to cough/sneeze into a tissue (they need one daily) and then dispose of it in the bins provided. Please continue to make sure that your child is tested if they have COVID-19 symptoms or you take medical advice.

It is with reluctance that these measures are being put back in place but I have learnt that we need to be ahead of the game and a cautious approach when the indicators are there is the best way forward. I am especially disappointed at having to cancel the Year 2 concert in the hall. This concert along with the Nursery and Reception songs are normally a highlight of the school year and I had been so looking forward to celebrating your child's concert/show with you. I am also mindful that I have not met as many parents/carers as I would normally do when we have our normal induction meetings. I hope you are feeling part of the school community and have been able to establish a good relationship with other parents/carers and your child's class teacher.

We have had wonderful support from our school's community over the last two years and I ask for your support again for the risk mitigations that we have reintroduced. We know that this is hard for all our families and our staff. Knowing that we are walking outside at arrival and dismissal times to a smile and a wave does make a difference and helps us to manage the pressure of keeping our community safe.

Take care,



Ann Bowen-Breslin
Principal



A LETTER FROM HUGH GREENWAY (CEO) TO ALL PARENTS/CARERS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING A SCHOOL WITHIN THE ELLIOT FOUNDATION.

29 Nov 2021

Covid 19 Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Elliot Foundation is the charity that runs your child's school. As such we are responsible for the health, safety and general wellbeing of all children and staff in our schools. We also have a moral responsibility to the communities that our schools serve.

Covid 19 has not gone away. I thought I would take the opportunity to share with you what we are doing and to remind you of what you can do to help.

General risk mitigation measures

We all share the responsibility to restrict the spread of the virus.

- Please ensure that you and your family are up to date with your vaccinations and boosters
- Follow hand hygiene protocols and use gels and disinfectant sprays
- Wear a mask when in confined spaces
- Fresh air and distance are the best mitigation measures

School Risk mitigation

All of our schools have individual operational plans designed to help mitigate the risk of Covid transmission. These have been drawn up from government guidance and are reviewed by the Trust fortnightly in light of the level of transmission in a school or area.

- If your child displays symptoms please arrange a PCR test and share the results with the school
- If your child tests positive you will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace to help identify close contacts
- Please be aware that schools are no longer required to conduct contact tracing
- Remember that Lateral Flow Tests for those without symptoms are readily available if you are concerned about a local increase in cases
- If the number of positive cases in any class rises above a threshold we activate contingency plans which may include:

- Restricting mixing of classes or year groups for a period of time - eg separate dining, not attending assemblies
- Limiting out of school activities
- Limiting visitors to the site
- Cancellation of assemblies and events (unfortunately this may include nativity plays and carol services)
- We will seek to avoid closing classes wherever possible but in some situations this may be unavoidable (significant Covid variant of concern, major staff absence through illness, or where expressly advised by local Public Health body)

The last two years have been exceptionally hard. Many school staff have gone above and beyond to support children and their families. Many have done this while also supporting vulnerable relatives at home. I am sure that you have done the same for others in your community, workplace or home. Let us hold on to the idea of supporting each other.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Greenway', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hugh Greenway
Chief Executive - The Elliot Foundation