



Coronavirus: Update for Parents on Partial School Closures and Remote Learning Plans



1st January 2021

Dear parents/carers,



I hope that this email and letter finds you all in good health, safe from the Covid Virus that is affecting all of our families in so many ways.

As the new Federation Headteacher for Stewart Headlam and Hague Schools, this is not the 2021 New Year start that I wanted to write to you about. 2021 was supposed to be more cheerful for all of us, however, I'm an optimist at heart and very much hope it will feel better for everyone once we get through the challenges of January.

I know you will have seen and heard the news that the government has instructed schools in Tower Hamlets to close due to the extremely high number of coronavirus cases in our area.

It means **Stewart Headlam and Hague Schools will only be open for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers, from Wednesday 6th January. All other children will need to continue their learning from home until the restrictions are lifted.**

I am sorry this is such short notice but the circumstances were, as you know beyond Primary Headteachers control. It would have been helpful if the government gave primary schools and parents more notice of the changes but be assured that staff are doing their best to react and support at such short notice. We are following the newly updated Tower Hamlets advice just circulated to school leaders.

Stewart Headlam and Hague Schools had already scheduled an INSET Day for Monday 4th January to launch the new school leadership vision and schools' priorities. There will now be an extra INSET Day on Tuesday 5th January to ensure that both schools are ready to support and deliver the next 2 weeks of home learning for those not attending and onsite provision for those who are eligible to attend.

The Government anticipates that restrictions will be lifted from 18th January. We are however, very mindful that the government is keeping the situation under review subject to secondary school virus testing programmes, vaccinations and reduction in number of Covid Cases in Tier 4 locations.

The list of occupations that fall under the "Critical Workers" category has been published by the Cabinet Office.

If you are in an occupation that falls under the "Critical Worker" category and you would like your child/ren to access provision at Hague or Stewart Headlam, we must request that you complete the online Critical Worker Registration form by Tuesday 5th Jan, 12noon. This will be emailed to all families.

Please note that due to the current situation, we require supporting documents regarding your "Critical Worker" status. Only children who have completed forms and confirmed critical worker status will be able to attend.

Children with SEND/EHCP

We totally understand that a few children with Special Educational Needs may find the change and school closure to most children a little unsettling.

We aim to support our children with SEND flexibly and with a full or part time offer to be agreed. The Inclusion Leads, Alice (Hague) and Kulsoom (Stewart Headlam) will contact parents to confirm attendance. Alternatively, you can complete the online form to support early planning.

Teachers of the Deaf at Hague will contact families by phone on Monday afternoon, to confirm attendance and Tower Hamlets transport arrangements if needed.

How to start with Remote Learning - Parents' Guide

We are very mindful of the challenges for parents and aim to make the learning as accessible as possible for all.

Whether children are at home or in school they will all be following the same learning expectations.

Tuesday 5th January:

1. **Log on** to the school websites and Google Classrooms.
2. **Read the 'Get Organised'** information
3. **Prepare to start the Remote Learning tasks from Wednesday 6th of January.**
 - **Stewart Headlam** children and families should check Google Classroom for the Remote Learning Plans.
 - **Hague** children should check the school website for their weekly learning overview. The Learning Links will be signposted there.

The class teachers in both schools will schedule Google Meet sessions for each class.

They will send further information on the 4th and 5th January to support Remote Learning.

A reminder of the definitions of 'vulnerable children' and 'critical workers'

Vulnerable children are those who:

- Have a child in need plan or child protection plan
- Are looked after by the local authority
- Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan and have been determined, following risk assessment, that their needs can be as safely or more safely met at school
- Have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by the school or LA, including children who are:
 - Receiving support from children's social care services i.e CAHMs
 - Adopted or Looked After
 - Living in temporary accommodation
 - Young carers
 - In a hostel or temporary accommodation

Critical workers are those who work in:

- Health and social care
- Education and childcare
- Key public services (including the justice system, religious staff, charities delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting)
- Local and national government who are involved in delivering the coronavirus response or essential public services
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

Please complete the survey to let us know if your family has had a change in circumstance which means you or your child are eligible for any of the above categories.

We fully understand the reasons that parents may want to keep their children safe at home during this period, we will support you to do so but will also offer safe, school based provision during this time to support families and children who are eligible and need it.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us via

admin@hague.towerhamlets.sch.uk or admin@stewartheadlam.towerhamlets.sch.uk

Thank you again for your continued support.

We'll be in touch with more information at the start of the new year.

Kind regards,

Judy Knappett

Executive Headteacher of Stewart Headlam and Hague Primary Schools.