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Tuesday 15th December 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Yesterday I wrote to you to explain that Islington Council had strongly advised all Islington schools to move to remote learning from Wednesday 16th December to the end of the term and for the first week of the spring term. When asking schools to close, Islington Council had acted upon Public Health advice and concerns regarding a sharp rise in COVID-19 infections in the borough, and across London, since last Thursday.

Today, Islington head teachers received a letter directly from the Education Minister, Nick Gibb, stating that 'Under Schedule 17 of the Coronavirus Act 2020, the Secretary of State may make a direction to require schools to enable all pupils to attend full time.' Islington Council have been having discussions with the DfE throughout the day and we have been waiting for further information which has still has not been provided. When this information is received we will share it with you.

Due to the letter from Nick Gibb we will now remain open tomorrow and Thursday for those who wish to send their children into school. However, Friday will now be an INSET day (remote learning will not be provided).

If you do not choose to send your child to school, as you remain concerned about the Public Health guidance, then we will authorise the absence of Wednesday 16th December and Thursday 17th December as we fully appreciate that these are extraordinary circumstances and you had already been informed that the school would be closed.

If they are in good health, Neptune Class are able to attend school tomorrow and Thursday as the Government have changed the self-isolation guidance to 10 days (instead of 14 days).

As it currently stands, pupils will return on **Tuesday 5th January** to begin the new term (Monday 4th January is already a planned INSET day).

I appreciate your patience and understanding with the uncertainty of this situation. It is not how we had hoped to end the autumn term.

Even though the decision to close schools has been overturned, the fact that Islington wanted to take this course of action should remind us all of the need to take personal responsibility amidst rising infection rates in the locality.

We have been fortunate to have had so few interruptions to face to face teaching this term. Please ensure that from tonight at midnight, when London enters Tier 3, you are following the rules and helping to keep the community safe.

Yours sincerely,

Stephanie Day
Headteacher