



South Haringay School
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Friday, 1 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year to you all - I hope you all managed to have an enjoyable break over the festive period.

I am in the unenviable position of having to write to you again about Government announcements delivered only days before any potential school reopening and, unfortunately, within the context of rising Covid – 10 cases within our community.

You are likely to be aware of the Government's announcements about the changes to the start of the new term for schools. While many primary schools in London have been instructed to delay the start of school for children, primary schools in Haringey have been instructed to open.

Haringey have challenged the Government's decision in this regard, arguing that Covid – 19 infection rates in Haringey are above the London average and are higher than some of those Local Authorities who have been asked to delay their starts. As things stand at the moment, the government are steadfast in their decision, which requires Haringey primary schools to open next week.

As you know, we already had two INSET days scheduled for Monday, 4th January and Tuesday, 5th January. So, the earliest our children could return to school is Wednesday, 6th January.

Some Haringey primary schools have already made the decision to delay this start and remain closed. They have done so knowing that they may be challenged legally for this stance.

Others are planning on opening. I am in regular conversation with local Headteachers, and our Chair of Governors, as we try to make sense of fast-moving direction, advice and opinion.

If the decision is made to delay the start of school, come Wednesday, 6th January, our school will be open to children classified as vulnerable and to the children of key

workers. If this is the case, I will write to you with further details about how arrangements for securing a place for your child under these categories will operate.

As the situation is very fluid, and the Government is under a great deal of pressure to review their decision making, I propose writing to you again early next week with an updated position on whether our school will be opening to children on Wednesday. I know this is not ideal, as many of you will understandably want clarity now. I ask for your patience in what is a challenging situation, where I must weigh up the best interests and safety of our children, our staff and the wider community.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Scotchbrook', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ian Scotchbrook
Headteacher