

Bessemer Primary School



www.bessemergrangeprimary.co.uk

Address: Dylways, London, SE5 8HP

Tel: 020 7274 2618 / 7274 2520

E-Mail: office@bessemergrange.southwark.sch.uk

Headteacher: Ms Sarah Beard

Head of School: Mrs Elizabeth Whitehead

Monday 4th January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, school will not be opening fully tomorrow following the decision for all London schools to remain closed until January 18th. This applies to the whole school, including Little Stars.

Children of Keyworkers and Vulnerable Children

We will be partially opening to provide places for the children of keyworkers and for vulnerable children. If you believe that your child meets the criteria to attend you should have informed the school office of this and will receive a separate confirmation email of their place today.

We understand that home schooling can be very challenging for parents and children and we know that many of you would prefer that your child was in school, but please do not send your child in if you do not receive a confirmation email. In order for this lockdown to be effective we need to keep the number of children attending school as low as possible so must follow the criteria for places.

For those children who are attending school the timings of the school day will be as follows:

Little Stars – your child should attend for their usual sessions between 8am and 5.45pm.

Nursery, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 – 8.55am – 3.25pm.

Reception, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 – 8.50am – 3.20pm.

The children should continue to use the same gates as usual at drop off time in the morning, except that Rainbow class will use the same gate as the other Reception children. In the afternoon children should be collected from the gate that they were dropped off at. The lower numbers mean that we do not need to use two gates for Years 1 and 2.

Breakfast club and After School Club will continue to be available at the usual times and should be booked electronically as usual. Breakfast Club and After School Club will only continue to be available if the demand is there, so this provision will be reviewed each week.

Please continue to observe social distancing and wear face coverings at drop off and pick up times.

Online Learning

If your child is not attending school, online learning will start on Tuesday. As was the case during the last closure there will be three lessons on Google Classroom every day; maths, English, and one other subject. While children do not have to upload their work once it is completed it is helpful if they do so, and encouraging for them to receive feedback from their teachers. The teachers who are

working on Google Classroom will be monitoring the stream throughout the day so please encourage your children to ask any questions they may have about the work.

During this closure we will be introducing two new aspects to our online learning. Firstly we will be asking all children to 'register' on their stream as early as possible every morning by entering their name so their teacher knows they have accessed Google classroom. We will then be contacting any children who do not register to ensure they are able to access the learning.

Secondly, each teacher will be holding weekly small group Zoom meetings with their class to 'check in', discuss the learning and give the children the opportunity to see each other for a brief chat. We hope that this will help children to feel a little less disconnected from school during this time. We will send out the details of these meetings during the week.

In addition, I am hoping to be able to organize some Zoom assemblies each week, again to help the children to feel connected and to provide additional structure.

If you have any problems accessing Google Classroom or the Zoom meetings, please email the school office.

School Meals and Food Parcels

The children who are attending school will all be able to have hot meals each day as the reduced numbers make it possible to serve all bubbles in the hall.

We have been informed that vouchers will not be provided for children entitled to free school meals during this closure. Instead, school will be providing food parcels for anyone who is entitled to free school meals and needs them, please contact the school office if you would like to collect a food parcel.

We hope that this lockdown has the desired effect and schools are able to reopen on January 18th, we very much look forward to welcoming everyone back. We will continue to update you throughout the closure and we are in school every day to answer your calls and emails if you have any questions or need any support.

Kind Regards,

Elizabeth