



An All-through Co-operative School
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Dear Families

With only one more week left in this half-term, I wanted to express my gratitude to you for your support in getting your child back into the routines of school and learning. Despite the challenging circumstances, almost 700 students have had 100% attendance since the start of term and I would like to congratulate them. I have also been extremely impressed by the resilience and conduct of our students this half term. Please take a moment to talk to them about the fantastic effort they have made to keep each other safe.

You will have heard about London being placed into "Tier 2 local restrictions" (Covid Alert Level High) from midnight this evening. This is to attempt to stop the increase in Covid 19 transmissions across the capital. There will be rules for you to consider as a family which can be found on the following websites: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-level-high> and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-levels-what-you-need-to-know>

London Local Restrictions- Tier 2 (Covid Alert Level- High)

This will mean that from Monday at Preston Manor Upper School, all students and staff must wear face masks in communal areas outside of the classroom. The government guidance requires this of schools with secondary age students (and post 16) where there are local restrictions in place. Please ensure your child has at least one face mask with them and a safe way to store that face mask with them at all times. We must **all** demonstrate *kindness* and protect each other by wearing face masks to reduce the spread of Covid 19.

A few people have a medical exemption for wearing a face mask, if your child falls into this category, please ensure the school has a copy for our records. In order for face masks to be used effectively, and to help the school community to remain safe we would ask that you watch the NHS video [Coronavirus face covering advice](#) and for more information on face masks in schools read the government guidance [Face coverings in education](#).

If there are any further restrictions that impact our school community, I will write to you to inform you of these. Thank you for your support in following the government guidance, protecting the NHS, helping to reduce the spread of this virus and ultimately saving lives in the wider Brent community.

Supporting Attendance

As we enter the winter months, the likelihood of your child having a common cold will increase. Having these symptoms however does not mean they cannot attend school. The table below from the World Health Organisation will help you to spot the differences between cold, flu and Covid-19 symptoms. We hope that you find this useful in supporting you in your decision to send your child into school or not.

Symptoms	Coronavirus Symptoms range from mild to severe	Cold Gradual onset of symptoms	Flu Abrupt onset of symptoms
 Fever	Common	Rare	Common
 Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
 Cough	Common (usually dry)	Mild	Common (usually dry)
 Sneezing	No	Common	No
 Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common
 Runny or stuffy nose	Rare	Common	Sometime
 Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Sometime
 Diarrhea	Rare	No	Sometimes for Children
 Headaches	Sometimes	Rare	Common
 Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No	No

Sources: World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

If your child experiences any one of the covid-19 symptoms, you child must self-isolate and not come into school and immediately get a coronavirus test:

- *New continuous cough*
- *A high temperature*
- *Change or loss of taste or smell*

To support us in keeping the school community safe, you must inform the school stating that your child has symptoms for covid-19, by calling the **school absence line 0208 385 4042**

Remote Learning at Home

In the event that your child is self-isolating we are providing remote learning which can be completed at home to ensure there is no lost learning time. This is available in your child's Google Classroom for each of their subjects. Teachers are uploading lesson resources and in most cases explanation videos or audio recordings to support students with their learning. We expect all students to complete this work if and when they are well enough to.

All students have been provided with a guide to Google Classrooms which will support them to access this work. A copy of the guide is included with this letter. Please look through this guide with your child and ensure that they understand all the steps which they need to take to complete their remote learning. If you experience any problems with your child's remote learning, please contact us on remotelearning@preston-manor.com

It is of critical importance that your child has access to the internet and a laptop/Chromebook or PC at home in order to complete their work. A few weeks ago you were sent a Google form link about your child's access to electronic devices in your home. If you have not yet completed this form please do so immediately by clicking on the following link <https://forms.gle/hZKvdWqvkbkosXb6>. This will enable us to support those students who have limited or no access which will prevent them completing their work at home.

Uniform Reminders

As the weather gets colder and wetter, it is important that your child wears an appropriate outdoor jacket over their school blazer that is both waterproof and warm. All outdoor jackets must be **plain navy blue** or **black** with no designs or logos (such as camouflage, stripes or wording). All winter scarves, woolen hats and gloves should also be **plain navy blue** or **black**. This is in line with our school uniform policy. As a very wet winter is predicted, all children would benefit from having a fold-up umbrella in their school bag at all times. Finally, students must bring in and wear their blazer at all times.

Please be aware that whilst students are allowed to wear their PE kit on the days they have a PE lesson, they are not allowed to wear tracksuit tops or tracksuit trousers that are not **plain** navy blue or black. From after half term, those students not in full uniform may be sent home and will be sanctioned. If on the rare occasion your child is unable to wear a full school uniform due to a specific circumstance, then please send your child into school with a note to explain the circumstances, so that we can be supportive and understanding.

Key information from November 2nd

After the half term holiday there will be a change to Year 7 and Year 9 arrival gate. From the **first Monday back**, Year 7 will enter and exit the school via the back gate (on Hollycroft Avenue) from 8.15am. Year 9 students will now enter and exit from the left side front gate. A further change for Year 9s is they will now be able to go to the Art playground from 8.40am. This change is to support greater social distancing between year groups at this time.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. As with all of us, you have adapted to telephone conferencing and Zoom meetings. It is so important that our connection and communication with you and your family does not break down during this challenging period. Please do ensure that a change in number or email address is immediately reported to our school through your child's form tutor or DSD. It is absolutely imperative that we are able to get in touch with you in case of an emergency and to ensure your continued involvement in our school community. Next week, I will be writing to you again to share more about accessing and supporting your children with remote learning when it is periodically necessary.

Please take the time to discuss Tier 2 local restrictions with your family and continue to observe the government's guidance on *Hands. Face. Space.* Have a restful weekend and I will be in touch again next week.

Yours sincerely



Beth Kobel
Headteacher