

Ealing Council  
Perceval House  
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**Tel** 020 8825 5000

28<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your family are well. All Ealing schools are open, and staff are working hard to make sure that your children have settled back successfully. The additional actions that school leaders have in place to manage coronavirus have been working successfully to keep children well supported while they are at school.

Your support for schools in that work will be vital in the weeks and months ahead. Concerns have been raised with us by parents and local residents about congestion at school drop off and pick up times. We would ask that:

- parents and carers wear a face covering at drop off and pick up times where it is hard to maintain social distancing or where your school has requested that you wear one; and
- Your child should try to walk, cycle or use a scooter to get to and from school and avoid using public transport if possible. If you must use your car observe parking restrictions and follow any advice your school has sent to you about drop offs and pick ups.

In these first few weeks a number of schools have had to ask some teachers and children to self-isolate for up to 14 days. Infection rates in London and other parts of the country are concerning. At this time, we all have a part to play in minimising the infection rate and ensuring that as many children as possible are in school. **What you do outside of school affects staff and pupils at your school.** It is really important that we all observe the following key behaviours:

### **HANDS**

Wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds.

### **FACE**

Cover your face in enclosed spaces, especially where social distancing may be difficult and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.

It is now compulsory to wear [cloth face coverings](#) on public transport, shops and several other indoor settings.

## **SPACE**

Stay 2 metres apart where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place. Keep your distance from people who are outside your household or support bubble. [Limit social gatherings](#) (including abiding by the 'rule of 6') and avoid crowded places.

## **STAY AT HOME AND SELF ISOLATE if you have Coronavirus symptoms**

If your child, or anyone in your household, develops symptoms of COVID-19 (a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change in taste or smell), or if anyone is identified as a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, you **must not** send your child to school. There is more detailed guidance on staying at home in English and a range of other community languages through this [link](#). Please also see this [flowchart](#) for parents. There is further information on latest NHS guidance on [Coronavirus symptoms in children](#).

**Seasonal sniffles and colds.** At this time of the year many children may get sniffles and colds which do not include the symptoms of Coronavirus. In these cases, where children are well, they can go to school.

## **TESTING**

We need to ensure that the right people have access to testing, which is in high demand at the moment. Please **only book a test if your child has COVID symptoms** (high temperature, new continuous cough, or loss or change in taste/smell). Your child does not need a test if they **ONLY** have symptoms such as a runny nose, are sneezing or feeling unwell, **AND DO NOT** have a high temperature, new continuous cough or loss or change in taste/smell.

They do not need a test if they are a contact of a confirmed case but do not have symptoms themselves. In these circumstances isolation for 14 days is required.

## **ADVICE AND GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS**

You can visit our Ealing Families Directory for general information and advice on the return to school page at [www.ealingfamiliesdirectory.org.uk](http://www.ealingfamiliesdirectory.org.uk). Alternatively get in touch with Ealing's Family Information Service 020 8825 5588, (Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm) [children@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:children@ealing.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely



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