

The Cedars Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 11th January 2021

Welcome to 2021

I seem to be writing very different newsletters to any that I have ever contemplated before as a Headteacher. I never expected to be having to try and provide teaching for children at home or be wearing a mask in school to keep myself and others safe. However we are in the midst of a worldwide pandemic and we have all had to adapt and change our behaviours to try and keep all safe from the spread of Covid-19.

Whilst we have some children in school we are currently only open for the very vulnerable (children with a social worker) and children of key workers. With this amount of children and staff in school we are currently able to operate safely. We will be in touch as guidance changes.

Message from Kelly O'Neill, Director of Public Health Hounslow:

"Around one in thirty people in London are currently infected with COVID-19. In Hounslow, where 49 people died with COVID-19 in December alone, the picture is just as stark and the number of deaths due to the increased numbers of cases of infection and people requiring hospital care will increase in January. This current very high rate of infection in our borough is increasing fast- as the Prime Minister said when announcing their closure - schools can act as vectors for the virus. Right now, we need to keep doing everything we can to stop the virus from spreading. We agree with the Government's decision to close schools and for schools to only stay open for those pupils who are in the greatest need; this emergency measure will help schools to maintain a safe environment for children and staff."

"As the Government's guidance has made clear, where people can keep their child/children at home for remote learning, they should. The simple truth is that if schools become overused, the lockdown will fail. If schools become overused, the demands on teachers will mean schools cannot operate safely. We are appealing to schools to limit as far as possible the extent to which they offer emergency childcare on site, and to maximise take-up of online learning at home. We appeal too to families to keep their child or children learning at home."

"Without the continued support of everybody, this lockdown will not work. If you need more help, please speak to your school. Thank you."

For more information, please visit: <https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Councillor Tom Bruce, Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Youth Services added:

"As a Cabinet Member, parent and teacher myself, I recognise the enormous pressure parents and schools are under, especially while staff are teaching not just in schools, but also online. The quality of online learning provision is very high, and I am confident that - in exceptionally tough circumstances - our children are getting the best possible home education. I urge parents; keep children at home and learning, rather than in schools' emergency childcare."

<https://www.cedars.hounslow.sch.uk/important-information>

Mobile Data to Support Remote Learning

Schools are currently able to request additional mobile data for children who are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education and their families meet the following criteria:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices

are customers of the following mobile networks: Three, Smarty, Virgin Mobile, EE, Tesco Mobile, Sky Mobile
Please contact us if you meet the above criteria and would like us to apply for additional mobile data on your behalf.

When was the last time you had a coronavirus test? Get tested now.

Got coronavirus symptoms? Book a test now. But remember, you must stay isolated until you get a negative result.

There is a range of local testing options available to you;

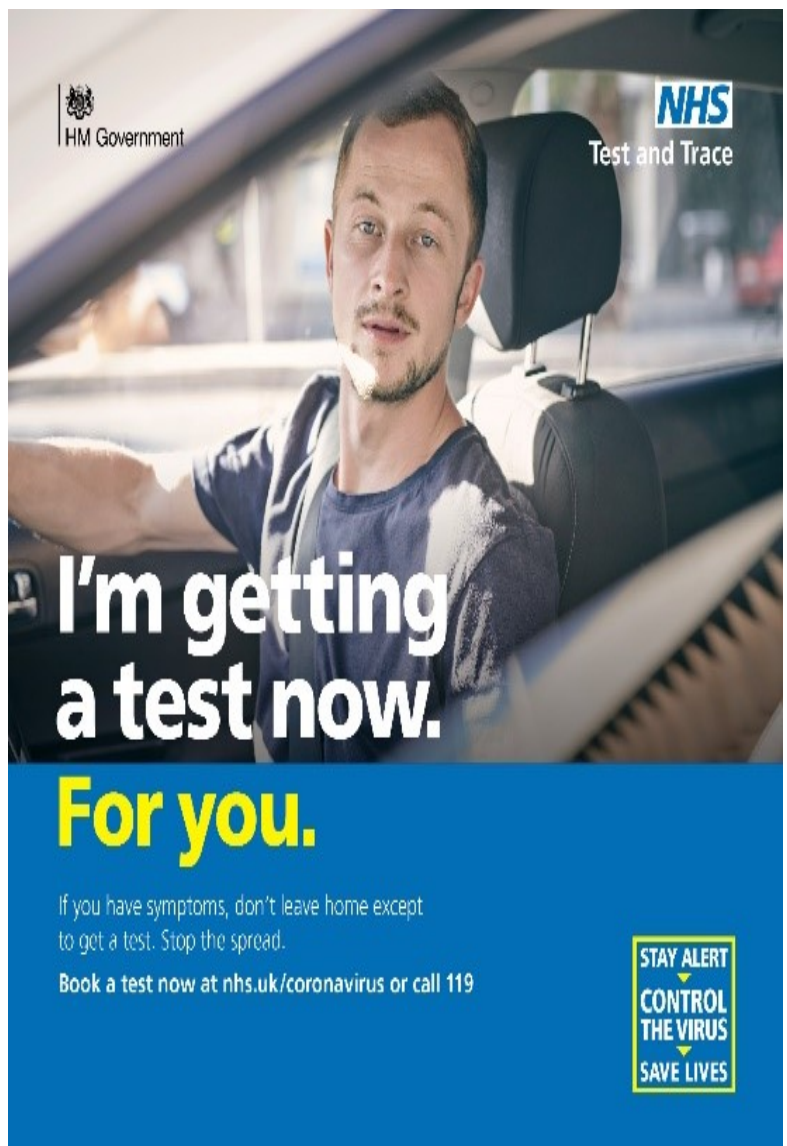
Order a home test kit,
go to a local walk-through test centre in Feltham and Heston, or

Visit a Mobile Testing Site where there are both pedestrian and drive-through appointments available.

The test sites currently all have capacity, especially at the weekends.

You must have a booking to access a test (to book [click here](#)). For more information, please [click here](#).

Testing is now available for all residents and keyworkers to get routinely tested whether you have symptoms or not. Simply select *"My local council or health protection team has asked me (or someone I live with) to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms"* when booking a test.

An advertisement for NHS Test and Trace. The top half shows a man with a beard and short hair sitting in the driver's seat of a car, looking towards the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing the interior of the car and some outdoor elements. In the top left corner, there is a small logo for the HM Government. In the top right corner, the NHS logo is displayed with the text 'Test and Trace' underneath it. Overlaid on the bottom half of the image is a large white text box containing the text 'I'm getting a test now.' in a bold, sans-serif font. Below this, on a solid blue background, is the text 'For you.' in a large, bold, yellow font. Underneath this, in a smaller white font, is the text 'If you have symptoms, don't leave home except to get a test. Stop the spread.' followed by 'Book a test now at nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119'. In the bottom right corner, there is a yellow rectangular box with a black border containing the text 'STAY ALERT', 'CONTROL THE VIRUS', and 'SAVE LIVES' in black capital letters, with small downward-pointing arrows between the lines of text.

HM Government

NHS
Test and Trace

**I'm getting
a test now.**

For you.

If you have symptoms, don't leave home except to get a test. Stop the spread.
Book a test now at nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119

STAY ALERT
CONTROL THE VIRUS
SAVE LIVES



If your child has:
a high temperature
a new, continuous cough, or
a loss of, or change in, sense of
smell or taste

This could be a sign of
coronavirus

Book a test

If your child has:
a runny nose, is sneezing or
feeling unwell

But they don't have:
a high temperature
a new, continuous cough, or
a loss of, or change in,
sense of smell or taste

These are
not normally symptoms of
coronavirus

Seek advice from a pharmacy, dial
111 or see your GP