

14 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We write again to express our thanks and gratitude to you all for the support you have shown Croydon Schools since the beginning of the school year and in the last week during this lockdown which resulted in remote teaching and learning, expect for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. We have seen and heard lots of examples of the hard work that our children and young people are doing at home with your support.

You will be aware that we are seeing a significant rise in Covid cases across the community within Croydon and similarly across London. Due to the high levels of the virus in the community, as per the government guidance, people should stay at home if they can and pupils should only attend schools if they fall into the category requiring on-site provision and have no alternatives at home. It is crucial that parents, carers and staff follow the government guidance around the national lockdown of not leaving home except when necessary to minimise exposure and transmission of the virus.

Whilst the majority of your children will be coping with being at home, we do understand that for some children this may be extremely challenging and may have an impact on their mental health and well-being. Please do contact your school to share any concerns that you have.

The schools have worked hard to ensure that those children and young people that remain at home receive access to virtual learning and have been able to adapt this based on the previous lockdown experiences of children and young people. While we know that this is not the same as being in the classroom we hope your child/ren is/are engaging well with their learning.

Please note that, starting today, the BBC will be delivering an online primary and secondary education offer and your child/ren will be able to access curriculum-based learning, even if there is no access to the internet. Please visit [Home - BBC Bitesize](#), for more information

The pandemic has created massive uncertainties and none of us can be sure what the next stage will be. Please be assured that the council's education directorate will continue to support schools during the next few weeks and months and that we will all continue to support your children and young people.

During this period it is very important that we share concerns with one another – please do not hesitate to contact your schools during this period for additional help and support. The education directorate can be contacted through educationenquiries@croydon.gov.uk should you have any concerns but please do speak to your child's school first. Please also make contact if you are experiencing any challenges in relation to access to food and we will link you with the right support. If you are a carer for a Croydon looked after child, please contact Croydon Virtual School directly on virtual.school@croydon.gov.uk

The current guidelines in relation to schools will be in place until February half term and will then be reviewed. The uncertainty around when they will return to schools might be unsettling for some children and young people, and we want to acknowledge that and ensure that you ask for help when necessary. Please be assured that the needs of our children and young people will be considered as part of any plans for the return to school once this has been confirmed.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your understanding, commitment and for following government advice to keep us all safe during this period.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Jones".

Debbie Jones
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Shelley Davies".

Shelley Davies
Interim Director of Education