

7 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you as the Education Director for Judith Kerr Primary School. I know many of you already and am aware that you must all be wondering where we are with the current challenges in the school.

On Wednesday, 30 September we were made aware that a member of staff had tested positive for COVID-19. Following guidance from the local Health Protection Team, children in Years 5 and 6 were told to self-isolate.

Yesterday we became aware of two further confirmed cases in the staff team including the Headteacher. Having discussed this development with the Health Protection Team, we have been advised that we need to extend the isolation period for those children already self-isolating but we now also need to inform some other families that their children will need to self-isolate as well. Each affected group will receive a letter with the relevant advice shortly – please read these very carefully.

In addition, several members of staff will be required to self-isolate which, regrettably, means we will not be able to reopen the school until Thursday, 15 October. This affects a third group of children who do not need to self-isolate, but who will not be able to come into school because of insufficient staffing at this time. Again, affected families will receive a letter to this effect shortly.

I can assure you that the decision to keep the school closed is one we have taken with considerable regret and not lightly. It is our absolute belief that children need to be in school after such a lengthy period of national disturbance however, after following the advice from the Health Protection Team we find ourselves in this position. The school has worked really hard to strengthen the systems for remote learning and this should be established for your children already. Senior team members are responsible to ensuring this is reaching all children and the quality is good. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have any concerns.

As a precautionary measure we have arranged for the school to be intensely cleaned today.

I am in very regular contact with staff and local governors. Ms Jo has been suffering from symptoms, but I am pleased to report that she is making good progress.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Patrick or Miss Orla in the first instance.

Very warm wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'K Walker'.

Karen Walker
Education Director