



# OLD PALACE PRIMARY SCHOOL



St Leonard's Street, Bow, London, E3 3BT • Tel: 020 8980 3020  
Fax: 020 8980 2221 • Website: [www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk](http://www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk)



2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

May I begin by wishing all our pupils and families a Happy New Year!

As you are probably aware, the Department for Education has announced that due to the increased number of COVID-19 cases, **primary schools in London are not to open** at the beginning of term. This decision is due to be reviewed by 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

We wrote to you at the end of term to explain that we would be holding **inset days on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**. These days will continue, but we have changed the planned activities to help us to prepare for remote learning. **Remote learning for all year groups will commence from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January** and will continue until the Department for Education consider it safe for London primary school children to return to school.

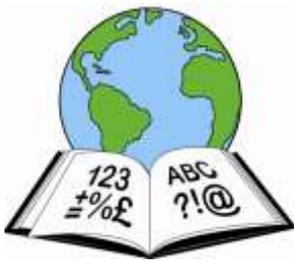
Although we are disappointed not to be able to welcome the children back into the classroom, with cases of COVID-19 at a record high in Tower Hamlets and continuing to rise, we believe that keeping pupils at home is the safest option for our staff, pupils and their families. We had a tragic reminder of the danger posed by the virus to schools, over the Christmas break, when it was confirmed that the Headteacher at Marners School, Mr Hague, sadly lost his life after contracting COVID-19 before the end of term. We send our sincere condolences to Mr Hague's family and wish to offer our support to the whole school community at Marners at this most sad and challenging time.

**Vulnerable pupils** will be able to continue to attend school from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. We will contact the parents of these pupils by Monday to confirm whether or not parents wish them to attend school.

Some parents, who are **Key Workers**, may also wish to send in their child/ren, if they are not able to make arrangements for them to stay safe at home. Parents who are Key Workers and wish to send their child/ren into school will need to email [admin@oldpalace.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oldpalace.towerhamlets.sch.uk) by 12pm on Monday to request a place. We need this information by Monday lunchtime so we can arrange staffing, as class teachers and most teaching assistants will be involved in delivering remote learning. In the email, please confirm which parent/s are Key Workers and attach evidence, such as a photograph of a current work ID or their latest payslip. We will then send a reply to confirm if a place has been allocated. Provision for vulnerable and key worker pupils will run from 8.30am to 3.30pm. We will aim to allow the children in school to access their class remote learning sessions in school, when this is logistically possible.



Headteacher: Mr G. Palmer BA (Hons)  
School Business Manager: Michele Walsham



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Early next week we will send out a remote learning timetable for each year group, along with log in details. The timetable will cover a full day of learning from 9am-3.30pm. We will also be contacting the families designated as disadvantaged to see if they wish to loan a Chromebook. If following this, we still have Chromebooks available, we will then prioritise loaning these to families with three or more pupils at the school, followed by those with two or more. We will contact you to allocate times when parents can come to the gate to collect the Chromebooks and other learning resources, if families are unable to access these online.

We are waiting for information from the local authority regarding Free School Meals. We are hoping that a voucher scheme will be put in place, so that Tesco vouchers can once again be issued, as they were over the Christmas break. We will contact you once arrangement have been confirmed.

Finally, please may we remind you of the importance of **Hands, Face & Space** to help reduce the spread of the virus. Details of the Tier 4 restrictions currently in place in London can be found [here](#), and remember anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 must book a test and self-isolate for 10 days, along with members of their household unless they receive a negative result. Given the increased transmission rate of the new variant of the virus, it is more important than ever that we all follow the restrictions, as it is only by doing this that we can help to slow the spread of the virus. Our local hospitals are beginning to become overwhelmed, so we must work together to keep our families, friends and community safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr G. Palmer

Headteacher



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