



William Torbitt Primary School

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Dear Parent & Carers,

As Redbridge is now under the Tier 2 (High Risk) category of Covid 19 restrictions we would like to update you as to the steps we may be required to take in the coming weeks should the situation worsen or there be a confirmed case or outbreak within the school.

If we have a positive COVID case in our school community, it is highly likely that we would be instructed to send any children who have been in close contact within the past 48 hours home to self-isolate. The school will take advice from public health on a case-by-case basis - in some cases numbers may be restricted to just a few pupils, in others we may be advised to close and send home an entire class or year group (although we are taking steps to try and prevent this). This would happen as soon as we get a notification from a parent or a member of staff, so may happen during a school day, with a request that children are collected as soon as possible.

What does self-isolation mean?

- Your child must not leave the home
- Other people cannot visit your home
- Other household members are able to leave the home, unless your child develops symptoms
- All other siblings are expected to attend school, unless they/your child develop symptoms
- No one in your family will need to be tested unless they develop symptoms
- Anyone developing symptoms must get themselves tested and report this to the school
- No child returns to school before their given return date (usually 14 days)

(Please note, if you or any of your children become symptomatic during half term and/or receive a positive test result you should still inform the school of this at the first available opportunity – please send a copy of any positive test results to admin@williamtorbittt.redbridge.gov.uk)

I understand that this may pose problems for many of you, however there are fines in place for those who do not adhere to the guidance, so I am writing to you now so that you can consider what you would need to do if this happened for one or more of your children and plan accordingly.

Please also remember that there are additional **benefits** payable to those on a low income if you are unable to work because of following Government guidelines.

Single parents are allowed to continue getting support from **one** support household that they have identified as their support bubble.

How will my child continue their education?

Unlike during lockdown, **every child is expected to complete a full day of learning at home** across all subjects, as provided by the school. Schools now have a statutory duty to deliver learning opportunities and monitor the learning completed and provide feedback to the children.





Using a tutor to do other work or completing workbooks that you have at home would **not** be an option this time.

What will the school provide?

We are working tirelessly to develop our offer rapidly so that all children get the very best opportunities to take part in effective teaching and learning during any enforced absence for self-isolation purposes.

As in the previous lockdown, work will be available on a daily basis via DB Primary. We have decided, where appropriate, to make use of the pre-recorded lessons made available through the national resource 'Oak Academy', in order that our own teaching staff can focus on spending time meeting with groups of pupils online, rather than recording their own lessons – we want to ensure we spend our time talking and working with children, not just talking at them. As a result, your children will have more regular, scheduled, face-to-face Zoom meetings with their class teacher throughout the week. In these meetings they will share work, discuss next steps and focus on key skills that need to be taught.

We are also hoping that those children who attend additional interventions will continue with some of these through tasks and/or face to face time with their learning support assistant as usual.

What will I have to do?

You will need to check DB Primary each day and assist your children in accessing their pre-recorded lessons and/or live lessons. You should also familiarise yourself with the daily timetable and ensure that your child attends all of their face-to-face sessions and completes the tasks set across a range of subjects. This should take the around the same amount of time as learning in the classroom.

You will be asked to regularly share some of your child's work by photographing it and/or uploading it so that the teacher can provide feedback and use what they know to ensure that the next day's teaching is appropriate, just as they would in the classroom. We will be supporting you with this through a step by step guide.

What if I only have one device?

We are very aware that many of our families may be limited to a single online device and that this may be needed by a working parent. We are keeping this in mind as we plan and are trying to ensure that as much learning as possible can take place away from a screen.

In the next few days we will also be sending out a survey to parents/carers so that we have a full picture of what devices you have available and the pressure that might be put upon these in different situations, and in some cases we may be able to provide/loan suitable equipment.

Will I have to come to school to collect a pack?

We are aiming to ensure that every child sent home for a 14-day self-isolation will be sent home with:

- A pencil case of equipment
- A whiteboard and pen
- An exercise books
- Some additional paper and a line guide for best copy work (if appropriate)
- Their whole class reading book (KS2 only)
- Any worksheets, photographs, copied resources etc. that they might need to complete tasks at home over the two weeks

It will only be if your child is absent on that day that someone would need to come and collect a pack.





Please note that all equipment and work must be brought back to school when your child returns. There may be a charge incurred for any loss or damage, so please ensure that items are kept out of reach of younger siblings etc. and kept for school linked use only.

If we have a year group closure, on DB Classroom you will be able to find:

- Links to each day's pre-recorded lessons
- A timetable for live meetings with class teachers and other school staff
- The link to any daily face-to-face sessions
- Any video clips the children need to watch
- A range of supporting activities & resources

While we still have many areas that we want to explore, and further improve, the measure of our success will be the ability of families to ensure that their child carries on with a fulltime education while self-isolating for 14 days. We have deliberately chosen and planned for lessons on a week by week basis, so that whenever pupils are required to self-isolate their learning at home will keep pace with and mirror that which is taking place in school so that there is less disruption to their learning and less time needs to be spent 'catching up'

There are huge challenges for all of us in making this work for the children, but we are committed to reducing the impact of any forced 14-day isolation and know that you will want to achieve the same.

Yours sincerely,

The Torbitt Team

