



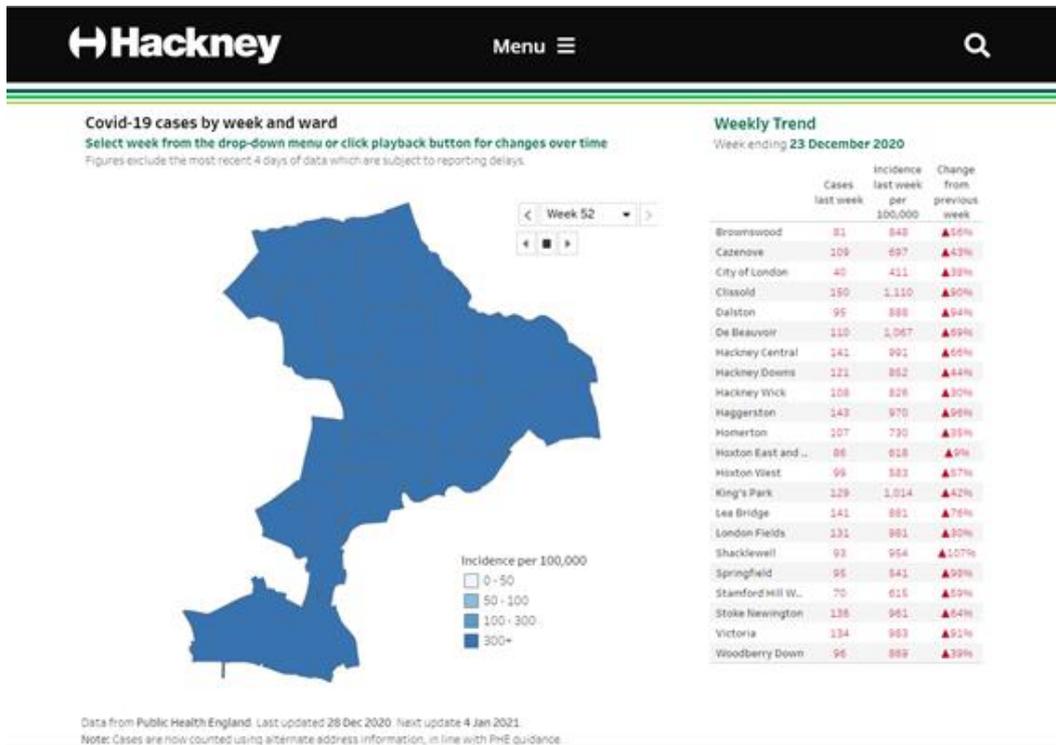
Saturday 2nd January 2021

Dear Parents and families of a child in Mandeville, Kingsmead or Gayhurst,

I am writing to you to confirm what was announced in the media last night that from Tuesday 5th January we will be moving to **online learning for all our classes**. The government has U turned on this issue after announcing on Wednesday 30th December, that most London boroughs would be closed until 18th January but mysteriously left some of the London boroughs with the highest rates of Covid 19 off the list, including Hackney.

We were busy campaigning as a group of Hackney Headteachers and writing to the Secretary of State, Gavin Williamson. The Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville joined with the other boroughs such as Haringey, Islington, Greenwich and Camden to voice our concerns that were also shared by Public Health England. No headteacher in Hackney thought it was safe to open to all children with the current local infection rates so we were very glad when yesterday evening, Jan 1st 2021, we heard that the decision had been made to stop face to face lessons until the 18th January when the situation will be reviewed. We can only apologise for the late notice this gives you and our staff but that was due to the government's decision making not ours.

Here are the current Hackney Covid rates by ward to give you some context. The link to the page is here <https://hackney.gov.uk/coronavirus-data>. This data is from the 23rd December and Public Health say cases have continued to rise so when new data is released on the 4th January we expect to see an even more dramatic picture.



www.kingsmead.hackney.sch.uk

www.gayhurst.hackney.sch.uk

www.mandeville.hackney.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Louise Nichols Business Manager: Cyrilene Malcolm
 Chair of Governors: Ian Mullaney Communications: Emma de Sausmaraz

LEAP Federation, c/o Kingsmead Primary School, Kingsmead Way, Hackney London E9 5PP 020 8985 5779



You will shortly receive more information on the following areas that we are working through the weekend to organise. Luckily as Monday was already a staff training day we are now using that day to get things organised as well and online learning will begin in earnest from Tuesday 5th January.

Home Learning

As any of you know, who experienced home learning between September and December of 2020, the expectation is that **all children will engage from home on 3-4 lessons daily through TEAMS** (video conferencing software that every child has a log in for) with their teachers. Your child's class teacher will be in touch with you on Monday to check that you all know how to log in and access this learning support. Families of children who do not log in will be contacted by the school on Tuesday to offer support. If your child is unwell and cannot attend online learning please let the school know this in the usual way by calling the school office.

Communications

We will email and send texts to parents when necessary and expect that to be more often than usual. Please make sure you contact details are up to date as our comms teams will be at full stretch and do not have time to call everyone to check you are receiving messages. The website for each school will be updated with relevant letters and information as soon as it is sent out. If you are not sure about anything please check there.

Free School Meals

The government has not announced any more voucher schemes so our kitchens will be starting the process to create weekly hampers of food products for families usually in receipt of FSM. If you think your status has changed and you are now entitled to this please contact your school office via email or phone from Tuesday with the details and they will help you. All those previously entitled will automatically receive communications about hampers and when they will be available. Free breakfasts will continue to be delivered to your homes if you were already getting these. Registering for FSM helps the school so even if you don't want the food or technological help you are entitled to please do register. Families who currently have 'No recourse to Public funds' are also able to let us know and we will provide food.

Technology

We know it can be a struggle managing home learning where there are several children with only one device so we are trying to timetable learning to help with this so families with more than 1 sibling can use the laptop at different times to access the teaching. We have limited numbers of devices to send home but please let the school office know if you currently have no device for your child to access home learning on.

Children of Critical workers

In line with government advice we will be providing childcare for children of frontline workers who would otherwise be unable to perform their much needed services during this time. We will be

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sending out separate information for those who need this service as soon as possible. Please be aware that each case will be assessed on specific need and we ask that you do only request this service if really necessary. Children who come in for this service will be supervised by support staff in mixed aged groups accessing the home learning that the rest of their class are engaging in.

Children with EHCPs

Our SENDcos will be contacting every family with a child with an EHCP to discuss provision for your child during this time. As you can imagine we have a lot to get organised in a very short period of time so please bear with us and keep reading the communications.

Please look after yourselves and **stay at home where possible** and follow Public Health advice. The rates are genuinely high in our local areas and whereas before we rarely heard of cases in our community, now barely a day goes by without a new positive test.

If you need any help with anything, please reach out to us and we will do our very best.

With all best wishes

Louise, Karen, Evelyn and Marc

Executive Head and Associate Heads