

Tuesday 5th January, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the Prime Ministers announcement last night I would like to confirm that Hamstel Infant School and Nursery will remain closed to all children with the exception of those who are vulnerable or whose parents are critical workers.

If your own circumstances have changed due to this announcement and you believe your child should now attend school, please email the office to let us know at office@hamstel-inf.southend.sch.uk and we will follow this up with you.

As with all new ways of working there are going to be some teething problems. This morning the Tapestry site 'fell over', this was nothing to do with school but unfortunately we may find this occurs again. Please be patient with the systems and we will try to support you wherever we can. From your feedback the decision to video remote learning for you to be able to pick up at any time is working well. If you have any concerns about logging in or lost logins again please contact us via the office. The planning on our website is only really a guide to what has been put together for your child's continued learning at home and the 'real' learning and support is on Seesaw (for Years 1 and 2) or Tapestry (for Nursery and Reception children). Your child has a login for only one of these accounts, not both, which is age appropriate.

We have been informed that Southend and Basildon Hospitals are now offering the 30 minute lateral testing service which may suit more families to access for more rapid testing.

We are still awaiting a final decision regarding Free School Meal payments, we would like to assure you that they will be made, but we have not been given the information yet on how they will be processed for us to send to you. As soon as we hear anything regarding this we will let you know.

Please keep yourselves safe and well, protect yourselves and where possible others too.
We can be strong together and find our way through this.

Kind regards,

Lisa Clark
Headteacher

[Link to Critical Worker information on Gov.uk](#)