



PARTNERSHIP LEARNING  
**RIVERSIDE BRIDGE SCHOOL**  
Excellence for All



Head of School: Kim Cerri | Address: Renwick Road, Barking, IG11 0FU | Web: [www.riversidecampus.com](http://www.riversidecampus.com)  
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Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware, the government made an announcement on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020 stating that secondary schools will be closed to the majority of pupils until at least the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021. In addition, that Primary schools will open as planned unless the school falls into a contingency area, in which case the contingency area framework is to be implemented. London Borough of Barking and Dagenham does fall into a contingency area and therefore we are required to put in place the necessary actions to provide a provision for vulnerable pupils and pupils of CRITICAL key worker children.

Riverside Bridge School, in line with Government advice, will be open to all pupils. However, to summarise the contingency area framework, it states that where pupils attend a special school they are encouraged to attend school, but this **is not mandatory**. Where parents opt not to send their child into school **they will not be penalized** during the time that the school falls into a contingency area, for Riverside Bridge School this currently is in place until 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The full guidance can be found on the government website using this link: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) contingency framework for education and childcare settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-contingency-framework-for-education-and-childcare-settings)

What this means for us and you

Riverside Bridge School staff are undertaking lateral flow testing on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. We will **be in contact with all parents by telephone during the afternoon of Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021** to advise if we will be open to your child on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. This depends entirely on the test results of the lateral flow testing. Please do make sure you are available to take the call.

In the majority of cases, during the telephone call we will be asking your intentions of whether you will be sending your child into school during the period of contingency. Please note, that it is **not mandatory** to send your child in, but we will be open if you wish your child to attend. Where we feel it is in the child's best interest to attend school, we will be informing you that there is an expectation that your child does attend school. During this call you can discuss any concerns you may have.

Where parents/carers are opting to keep their child at home until 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021, remote learning will be put in place and your child is expected to engage in every session provided. If any parents/carers/pupils have difficulty in accessing the remote learning please do contact the school via the email account, [bridge@riverside.bardaglea.org.uk](mailto:bridge@riverside.bardaglea.org.uk) or the telephone number above from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. In addition to the remote learning sessions, your child's class teacher will be making regular calls home to ensure everyone is safe and well. Please do use these opportunities to discuss any concerns you may have with your child's class teacher. Should the government decide to extend the period of time the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham is within a contingency area, we will be back in contact with you to find out your intentions for the following period of time.

If your child is entitled to a free school meal and you are opting not to send your child into school, you will be asked if you require a food parcel. There will not be a voucher option available. If you opt to send your child to school a food parcel will not be offered.

Where parents/carers are opting to send their child to school the following apply:

- School opening times will be 9:15am to 3:15pm, unless you have written permission for alternative timings for the spring term.
- If your child travels to school via transport, the transport department will continue to run as previously.



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- If you bring your child to school, we are asking that no parent/carer enters the building. There are marked spaces outside of the building for you to maintain social distancing. A member of staff will come out of the building to collect/drop off your child.
- There will be no on-site parking for any parent/carer unless they are able to display a blue disabled badge and there is a disabled parking space available.
- In order to reduce the number of people on the school site we ask only 1 parent/carer to drop off or collect your child.
- If you need to speak face to face with a member of staff please call ahead and make arrangements with reception. No parents will be allowed in the building unless pre-arranged.
- School meals will be provided, where required. Payment for school meals need to be made via ParentPay and all meal payments need to be made in advance. Where your child has a free school meal entitlement, this will continue as previously.
- Your child will not necessarily be in a class with the peers from their usual class. This is dependant on the number of pupils that are attending school.
- Your child will not necessarily be supported by familiar adults.
- Your child will be expected to be wearing full school uniform and bring their PE kit daily unless it is kept in school.

Please note that although we will attempt to maintain social distancing, the nature of some of our pupils will mean this is not possible.

Many thanks as always for your support throughout this challenging period.

Kindest Regards,

Mrs K Cerri  
Headteacher