



**Summerwood Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 7QB**  
**Telephone 020 8891 2727 Fax 0208 607 9112**  
**[www.ivybridgeprimaryschool.net](http://www.ivybridgeprimaryschool.net)**  
**Headteacher: Ms Caroline McKay**

19<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers of Nursery Pupils,

As you are aware, all schools in the country are currently closed to most pupils due to the very high levels of Coronavirus infection. Infection rates in Hounslow are still extremely high; we are the 4<sup>th</sup> highest in London and 18<sup>th</sup> highest in the country which is extremely concerning. However, on 7<sup>th</sup> January the government issued further guidance stating that nursery classes within schools should be open for all pupils. As you are aware we have had staff ill with Coronavirus and were unable to open our Nursery class at that time, staff are now well enough to be teaching again and I know you have all been enjoying your remote teaching sessions.

In line with government guidance, we will reopen our nursery class to all pupils however, we quite understand that you may wish to continue to keep your children at home with their brothers and sisters as you think this is safest at this point in time. It would be entirely your choice for them to return to school.

The Director of Public Health in Hounslow recently gave the following advice.

*“Around one in thirty people in London are currently infected with COVID-19. In Hounslow, where 49 people died with COVID-19 in December alone, the picture is just as stark and the number of deaths due to the increased numbers of cases of infection and people requiring hospital care will increase in January. This current very high rate of infection in our borough is increasing fast- as the Prime Minister said when announcing their closure - schools can act as vectors for the virus. Right now, we need to keep doing everything we can to stop the virus from spreading. We agree with the Government’s decision to close schools and for schools to only stay open for those pupils who are in the greatest need; this emergency measure will help schools to maintain a safe environment for children and staff.*”

*“As the Government’s guidance has made clear, where people can keep their child/children at home for remote learning, they should. The simple truth is that if schools become overused, the lockdown will fail. If schools become overused, the demands on teachers will mean schools cannot operate safely. We are appealing to schools to limit as far as possible the extent to which they offer emergency childcare on site, and to maximise take-up of online learning at home. We appeal too to families to keep their child or children learning at home.”*

As a school we would fully support this statement – the safest place for your children is at home with you, we will of course continue to remain open for children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils in all year groups.

If you would like your nursery child to return to school, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

Kind Regards,

Caroline McKay (Headteacher)