

16 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We are in the midst of a global crisis which has understandably left many in our community and beyond deeply unsettled.

We understand parents are concerned but feel their frustration and anger is misdirected. Each decision we have taken, indeed, all schools are taking, has been upon the advice of government and health officials.

UK government policy is to keep schools open so that key workers in the NHS can remain on the front line, safe in the knowledge their children will be cared for in a structured and supported environment.

Teachers in schools across the country, some of whom would fall into high risk categories, are being asked to put their own health and well being at risk, and those of their families, so that the country can continue to function.

Without this sacrifice, many in our community and beyond could not earn the money to feed their families, nurses and doctors could not tend to the sick; the economy, and indeed the entire country would grind to a halt.

Like those in the NHS, our teachers are on the front line, putting the needs of the country and their community ahead of their own. I am proud to count myself among them.

Following inaccurate press reports, we would like to make the following clarifications.

- The school did not give permission for a teacher to travel to Italy. When we discovered the trip had been taken, the teacher was sent home immediately.
- A week after returning home the teacher has not displayed symptoms of the coronavirus. The teacher will not return to school until the full 14 day quarantined period has elapsed. The teacher will be tested before returning to school.

- Contrary to reports in the local press, the school is deep cleaned every night in line with government coronavirus prevention and control guidelines.
- There has been no “cover up”. The school has followed government guidelines and health officials advice to the letter.
- Four letters have been sent home to parents relating to the coronavirus, including on Friday, two days before the story was published on the Newham Recorder website.

Yours sincerely



Simon Elliott
CEO, Community Schools Trust



Omar Deria
Head of School