



St. Stephen's School  
and Children's Centre  
*Learning for Life*

Monday 4th January 2021

## Letter 14-Update re: Start of Spring Term 2021

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Dear Parents / Carers,

Following [this week's announcement by the Department for Education](#) that it will be implementing its School Contingency Plan, we can confirm that school and nursery will not be re-opening to most pupils during the week commencing 4th January.

We understand the anxiety and inconvenience this will cause, and we are sorry to have to share this news with you. However, Covid-19 infection and transmission rates in Newham remain extremely high, and it is important that we all play our part in trying to reduce the risk to our communities, our colleagues and our loved ones.

While school is closed, we will be providing substantial remote learning for pupils at home, and will remain open to vulnerable children and children of critical workers. If you believe that your child is eligible to return, please do get in touch.

The government has not yet indicated when nursery and primary school pupils will be able to return to lessons, although they have said that they hope for this to be as soon as possible and will review the situation every two weeks. The first review is expected on 18th January and we will update parents and carers as soon as we know more about return to school arrangements.

In the meantime, you can continue to play your part in helping to reduce infection rates in Newham by sticking to the Tier 4 restrictions and staying at home as much as possible.

Further information about Tier 4 restrictions in Newham can be found on the council's website here:

<https://www.newham.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/c19-information-advice>.

Please be assured that the schools will continue to:

- keep pupils safe by regularly reviewing our COVID 19 risk assessment
- provide remote learning activities online. KS2 will be using Google classroom and KS1 and Early years will have activities published on the school website.
- keep in contact with your family with a phone call from the teachers
- provide access for those children eligible for free school meals

- keep you informed of any updates including arrangements for re-opening.

I can assure you we will continue to work carefully and to keep reviewing our procedures throughout 2021, to make the safety of everyone in our community our first priority.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year and to thank you for your cooperation, understanding and continued support. We look forward to seeing you all when the school reopens.

As always if you have any specific concerns or worries please get in touch via email at [mark.little@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk](mailto:mark.little@st-stephens.newham.sch.uk) who will direct your email to the appropriate member of staff.

Keep safe and take care.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Neena Lall OBE  
Headteacher

Mr. Shashankar Jana  
Chair of Governors