



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

Monday 11th January 2021

Letter 15-Headteacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well in these extraordinary times. It is extremely disappointing to be back in full lockdown at the start of 2021 but I am sure you understand how important it is for all of our safety. We are really hopeful that all children will be back to school as soon as possible.

We have had some parent queries about the following and now that we have had some time to digest all the information and guidance I hope this update will assure you.

Eligibility for a school place

During this period of national lockdown St Stephen's Primary School remains open to vulnerable children and the children of at least one critical worker. All other children will learn remotely until at least February half term.

The Nursery School and Daycare are open as normal during this period.

If you feel you require a place for any other reason please contact the school.

Remote Learning

We are continually developing our Remote Learning offer for this lockdown and under government guidelines children should be working for 3 hours a day. Our suggested timetable for each phase can be found on the school website.

From today St. Stephen's will be offering the following:

- Reception and KS1 have online activities updated daily by the class teachers on the school website-please collect an exercise book from the school office should you need one.
- KS2 have access to Google Classroom and should complete and submit their work every day for the teacher to mark and feedback.
- Our specialist teachers will be uploading specialist subject videos to supplement our remote learning offer and will be available on the school website.
- Class teachers will lead a 20 minute weekly class meeting on zoom (details to follow) to support the children's wellbeing.
- Teachers will make phone calls to those pupils who are unable to attend the zoom sessions.



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- Home learning packs are available for each year group for children who do not have access to technology and these can be collected from the school office.
- All children who have EHC plans also have an additional resource pack that can be collected from the school office.

However, here are a few things to bear in mind.

- 1) The first and most important outcome of this situation is that we all stay well and safe (physically and mentally) during this global pandemic.
- 2) Child development is a blend of academic attainment, emotional wellbeing and physical health.
- 3) Most of the children caught up most of their missed learning last term - so we will catch them up again.

If you are finding it difficult to access the St. Stephen's suggested timetable, we recommend that everyday the children at least:

1. have a conversation with you
2. read with you
3. write at least a few sentences each day
4. practise times tables, counting, addition and subtraction in maths
5. stay active and exercise
6. explore some art and craft activities

Please do not let them just play, watch TV or overuse iPads and phones for 6 weeks but as I said earlier - this is about balance and safety.

Device allocation

You may have heard in the news that the DfE are providing schools with laptops and chromebooks for pupils. The school has ordered the maximum of 35 available but we are still awaiting delivery. We will contact eligible families as soon as we receive them.

We have made a school decision to loan out a school chromebook per family for those children who receive the pupil premium grant. If you feel you are eligible for this and do not currently have a device, please contact the school.

Free School Meals and Food Parcels

The school is providing food parcels for children who would usually receive free school meals (FSM). These need to be booked in advance. Contact Mark to ensure enough has been ordered and to avoid wastage.



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Parents of pupils who are entitled to free school meals are asked to collect their food parcel between 12.00pm - 2.00pm each Friday. Staff will place the bags on a trolley in the Nursery School Entrance. Please remember to remain 2 metres apart from one another. Staff will be there to supervise this. Please ensure that you do not have any symptoms of Covid-19 and have not been in contact with anyone that has within the past 14 days before coming to collect your food parcel.

Once you have collected your bag please ensure that you leave the school grounds straight away so that you do not come into contact with other parents that will be arriving. You or a nominated person should arrive at school during the allocated time slot on Friday. Only pre-booked food parcels will be distributed.

If your child is not entitled to free school meals, but you are currently experiencing difficulties and would like to receive a food parcel then please contact the school or Children's Centre and we can discuss this with you.

Communication

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

Thank you very much for your understanding at this very difficult time.
Keep safe and take care.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Neena Lall OBE
Headteacher

Mr. Shashankar Jana
Chair of Governors