



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

Monday 18th January 2021

## Letter 16-Headteacher Update

---

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now into the 3rd week of lockdown and I thought I would update you on the ever changing current climate. It was reported in the news that Upton Park and in particular Green Street have dramatically high numbers of COVID cases. I urge you to follow Government guidance and stay safe.

### 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.

### Routines

It is even more important that during these uncertain times your children have some daily routines to give them consistency and security:

1. Maintain bedtime routines
2. Wash daily and change out of their pyjamas
3. Keep a balance of remote learning, play and family time
4. Exercise daily

### Device allocation

You may have heard in the news that the DfE are providing schools with laptops and chromebooks for pupils. The school has been provided with 35 devices. If you feel your family needs support with devices, please contact the school office who will log your request. We will then allocate these devices based on level of need.

We have also made a school decision to loan out our school chromebooks to those children who receive the pupil premium grant. This will be one Chromebook per family. If you feel you are eligible for this and do not currently have a device, please contact the school.

### Data Allowance

As a school, we are able to apply on your behalf for data increases to your mobile allowance. This offer is open to parents/carers on any of the following network providers: EE, Sky Mobile, Smarty, Tesco Mobile, Three, Virgin Mobile

If you are on one of these networks and think that you might be eligible for this increase the please email the school with the following details:

- Name
- Mobile phone number (this should always start with '07')
- Mobile network, and whether they're on a contract or a Pay-as-you-go deal.



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

We will then need to share a privacy statement with you and submit your details through the Government Portal.

### Free School Meals and Food Parcels

We now have 135 children that are entitled to FSM, this has risen from 75 children since March 2020.

On our return from the Christmas break, we issued 54 Food Parcels in the first week and 59 in the second week. We will also issue food parcels on Friday 22nd Jan.

From Monday 25th January we will transfer to the Government's FSM Voucher and this will continue, currently until half term. We feel the voucher scheme is a great step forward as not only does it capture more families but means the food bought, can be more bespoke to our community.

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.

### Vaccinations

It is great news that the UK was the first country in Europe to start the vaccine process and that the vaccine is now available in Newham.

When you get the amazing opportunity to have this vaccine, take it, as this will enable you to protect yourself, your family and all the people in your community from this serious and potentially deadly disease.

Please get the vaccine : Protect other people in your community - by helping to stop diseases spreading to people who cannot have vaccines.

### 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](mailto: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