



Dear Parents & Carers,

Firstly, thank you to everyone for their continued support. Thank you also, to all parents who have responded to our survey as this will enable us to establish a plan towards the possibility of widening school provision. If you have not yet completed the survey, please try to complete it before the closing date on Friday at midday.

The outcomes of this will be used to support the planning that is currently taking place and also to produce a frequently asked questions guide for parents which we hope to get out to you shortly.

In line with the government's own guidance, it is important to note that all schools can only return and widen the offer to more pupils if the following 5 tests are in place:

1. There is a significant decrease in number of cases of infection
2. There is a clear test and track system in place
3. There is clear guidance on the use of PPE in schools
4. There is clear guidance on social distancing for schools
5. There is a clear procedure to follow should there be a confirmed case of Covid 19 reported in the school.

If all these are in place then we hope to be able to proceed with a plan for some children to return, in a clear and manageable way. This will likely be a staggered approach to ensure that week on week, we are maintaining the conditions needed to keep us all safe.

It is important that you are reassured that any returning to school for additional pupils in years 6, 1 and Reception will not happen until we have completed a health and safety check, completed risk assessments, agreed this with governors and deep cleaned the school.

Listed below are just some of the considerations that need to be addressed in our planning:

- The pupil staff ratio with the current staff availability
- Children and staff with medical needs
- Organisation of groups in school (*small groups of up to 15, but probably smaller, with designated adult in designated space*)
- How staff will work with children
- What learning will look like for those in school and those that are not
- How resources are used and cleaned
- How social distancing is put in place around the whole school building and playground
- How we manage bringing and collecting children from school
- Cleaning and hygiene
- Outdoor play (*break and lunch*)
- Lunchtime (*which is likely to be eaten in individual rooms at their own table*)
- Supporting the well-being and mental health of children & staff
- Re-establishing routines/expectations
- Keyworker provision
- Bereavement support
- Provision and support for children with additional needs

- Procedures if a child or adult becomes ill
- Behaviour expectations and adapted rules during Covid
- Transitions and inductions

As you can see there is a lot to consider and we want to do this with care and consideration. I know that at the moment there is a new 'normal' for all of us and particularly children, they miss their friends and teachers, as school is such a major part of all our lives. The changes we need to make will make school life look and feel different for everyone and we need to be ready to address that.

We all want to see our children back at school, but we can only do this when we know that it is safe and practicable do so. I will of course keep you informed of any decisions, around if and when different year groups or identified groups of children can return to school.

I know that you understand and appreciate how difficult these decisions are and, as always, we value your continued support.

Take care and keep safe.

Sue Ferguson



REMINDER: Next week is half term so there will be no zoom meets or calls.

How to apply for Free School Meals

If your family's circumstances have changed we would strongly suggest you apply if you think you may be eligible.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)



To apply please follow the link: <https://www.newham.gov.uk/Pages/Services/Free-school-meals.aspx>



**PLEASE MAKE SURE
WE HAVE YOUR
CURRENT PHONE
NUMBER & EMAIL
ADDRESS SO WE CAN
KEEP YOU UPDATED.**



Well-Being

This is a worrying and stressful time for everyone, and each family has unique challenges. Make sure family well-being comes first. To help get ideas on how to do this visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

Need to reach out?

Sometimes you may just need to reach out. If you do, at any point, feel you are struggling, can't cope and need some support, there are organisations and charities that can help:

Mind: <https://www.mind.org.uk> – mental health charity

The Samaritans: [samaritans.org](https://www.samaritans.org) – 24hr support call free on 116 123

CALM: Campaign Against Living Miserably, for people in the UK who are down or have hit a wall for any reason. Call 0800 58 58 58 (daily, 5pm to midnight)



Free School Meals Vouchers

At the moment, the government are saying that there we cannot claim free school meal vouchers for families during half term. So the next set will be the first week of June



SUPPORT FOR UNDER 5'S FROM BECKTON AND ROYAL DOCKS CHILDREN'S CENTRE



Family Support:

The family support team is there to give advices if needed

Times: available Monday to Friday

078 703 6597/ 079 392 196 124

Domestic Violence Awareness

Due to the present situation (COVID-19) research has shown that domestic violence has increased, one of the main factors are, families are in the same environment . If you are experiencing Domestic Violence, please do not hesitate to contact Newham Hestia on **0808 196 1482** or send an email

ReferralsNewhamDSY@hestia.org

Or Right of women advice line who provide a range of services

<https://rightsofwomen.org.uk/get-advice/adviceline>

Do you have children under 5 in your home?

Need to reach out and talk to someone else?