



Newsletter

8th January 2021



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear parents and carers,

I would like to start by wishing you all a happy new year with the hope that, despite the current circumstances in which we are all in, 2021 will be a hopeful, peaceful and brighter year for you. Again, despite the challenges faced and differences to previous years, I also hope that you enjoyed the Christmas holidays and had a restful and enjoyable break.

The purpose of today's newsletter is to provide you all with clarity about the arrangements for the provision until at least February half term, when then national lockdown measures will be reviewed.

Home learning

The vast majority of children will be undertaking the remote home learning on a daily basis. **Please kindly note that this is a requirement for all pupils every day**, as part of children's statutory entitlement to education whilst schools are closed for most pupils. Schools are obliged to monitor attendance and engagement with the home learning. We do understand that this can be a challenge for some families and, as a school, we are committed to supporting you as much as we possibly can so that your child can access this remote learning.

Attached to this newsletter is a comprehensive guide to the home learning, including details on what the provision will look like, what we can do to support you, and how to access Microsoft Teams. For parents of Nursery and Reception children there is a supplementary guide attached explaining how to access Class Dojo.

We have a number of devices that we are able to loan out to families. A text message went out earlier this week to parents to explain that we should be able to start distributing these from Monday. If you would like to request to borrow a device, please email Mike Gleeson, our school business manager, at sbm@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk If you have already been in contact with the school to request a device, you do not need to resend an email to Mike, as we have a record of all the emails that have come to us so far. Please note that we are only able to loan out one device per family because of the limited number that we have.

Communication

During this time, quick and efficient communication is essential for us all. As I am sure you can appreciate, we are receiving a large volume of emails at the moment. In order to enable us to be able to respond to your queries more quickly and efficiently, I have outlined who to contact in relation to some of the most common queries we are receiving.

- For day-to-day operational matters, including remote learning and on-site provision, please contact me at headofschool@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk
- If you would like to request to borrow a device, please email our school business manager, Mike Gleeson, at sbm@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk
- If you have any queries regarding free school meals, please contact our admin team, for the attention of Absana Begum, at admin@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk
- If you have a higher level observation or concern which you feel should be considered please contact the Executive Headteacher, Rebecca Abrahams, at executivehead@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk



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Free school meals

Please note that we are still awaiting guidance from the government about the distribution of free school meals. We believe it is likely that they will be in the form of a voucher again, but this is yet to be confirmed. All children in receipt of free school meals will be entitled to the vouchers, and this will be continued through February half term. As soon as we receive further information, we will be in touch.

Children in school accessing the key worker provision are receiving a free hot meal every day. However, if you would like to send your child in with a healthy packed lunch, then this is fine. Parents can also send their child in with a healthy snack to have at playtime if they wish. This should be a piece of fruit or vegetables, rather than sugary or fatty snacks, including cereal bars.

Webinar

Finally, I would like to bring to your attention an email which schools received from the East London NHS Foundation Trust, which is directed at parents about resources which you may well find helpful.

Dear all,

Since the recent announcement of schools being closed, it has meant a lot of sudden changes for parents which can have an impact on mental wellbeing. Tower Hamlets Talking Therapies is offering a series of two free webinars to support parents during these uncertain times and I would appreciate if you can circulate the below webinar details to parents and anyone else in your network who may have contact with parents so it can be shared further (within the Tower Hamlets borough):

Managing my child during lockdown : 19/01/21 at 4pm

This webinar aims to look at common difficulties a parent may face when having their child at home while schools are closed and strategies to manage.

Managing my self care as a parent during lockdown 02/02/21 4pm

Self care can be commonly forgotten as a parent especially due to the current uncertainties. This webinar aims to act as a refresher and reminder of the importance of self care and how to ensure parents make time for themselves.

Please note, this webinar is only available to parents who have a registered address +/- registered GP in the borough.

To register, simply click on the link and complete the information on the form: <https://bit.ly/35bz88x>

The deadline to register is 24 hours prior to the day and time of the webinar, if you register after this we will be unable to send you the link to the webinar. The webinar will be run on a platform called Webex, you will be sent instructions on this along with the link closer to the time of the webinar.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

With best wishes,

Cristina King

Head of School