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Information and Procedures - 6th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term. It's a shorter one than the last - school closes on Friday 18th December for the Christmas Break. Before then, we will share with our community the celebrations of Diwali & Guru Nanak's birthday. Next week we will enjoy fundraising for Children in Need - more details below.

What a lovely sight at the gate this morning as the children in Reception entered the school in their explorer outfits as part of their hook for the topic 'Explorers'. When I visited their classes, I met lots of pirates and other explorers such as; Dora the Explorer, a NASA astronaut and even a doctor!

I wish you all a good and safe weekend.

Take care

Diane Barrick

Headteacher

COVID-19 Update

This week, the nation has entered yet another lockdown. Cases are increasing across the country and in London. Over the half term break the school had of a number of members of the school community with confirmed cases of Covid. It is really important that we all follow the guidelines as much as possible. In school, we have reviewed our risk assessment in line with the new Department for Education guidance and we will publish this early next week when it has been reviewed by governors.

In order to try to stop the spread of the virus, we have amended our attendance procedures slightly. As always, you must call the school by 10am if your child will be absent, with the reason why your child is unable to attend school. You will be asked a number of questions to establish if your child has any of the Covid-19 symptoms and given any advice should it be necessary. If we do not receive a call or email from you, we will try to make contact. Until we receive information about your child's absence, they will not be able to return to school.

Another way parents/carers can help us, is to adhere to social distancing whilst at the school gates. Many of you are already doing so. We must remember that there are members of our school community who may be clinically vulnerable and it is important that we all support them by following the guidelines. Please do not be offended if you are asked by another parent/carer or member of school staff to move 2metres away.

During the national lockdown, families will be affected in different ways. If you have any questions or concerns, please give us a call or email the school. In addition, you can always contact Newham's COVID-19 helpline on 0207 473 9711.

Remember - **HANDS, FACE & SPACE!**

Consultation on the RSHE Curriculum

You may remember way back in March 2020, the Governing Body were in a position to consult with parents/carers around the content of the new Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) curriculum, which were due to come into effect in September 2020. However, we were unable to hold the consultation meeting due to the country going into a national lockdown and the government extended the date when the subject becomes statutory to April 2021. I can confirm that we are not currently using any of the new material. The school have rearranged the consultation - led by Miss O'Neill (RSHE Lead), Miss Hook (Deputy Head and Curriculum Lead) and Ms Ahmed (Parent Governor).

Parents/Carers will be invited to virtual meetings, using Google Meet, for each of the following phases/year groups:

- EYFS - 18th November**
- Years 1 & 2 - 19th November**
- Years 3 & 4 - 25th November**
- Year 5 - 26th November**
- Year 6 - 2nd December**

After each meeting, we will send out a short survey to all parents/carers in each of the year groups so you can share your thoughts. This information will be used by governors to review the policy at the next meeting in early December. so that we are ready to start teaching as the law requires from April 2021.

If you have concerns that you want to raise with us as a school, then please do not hesitate to contact the school office who will make an appointment with a member of the school's RSHE team.

Weather

This week, the weather has made a turn for the worse. It is now really cold, wet and windy. Due to the current pandemic, our risk assessment states that we need to ensure there is sufficient ventilation in the classrooms. As a result, all windows need to be kept open throughout the day. This means the classes aren't always as warm as we would like them to be. In addition, children will be outside more than normal, even during the winter months, for PE and other activities that can't be completed inside. So that children are warm enough whilst in school, please ensure they wear lots of warm clothes - they can wear their coat if needed in class. We recommend that children wear layers and a thick, waterproof coat so they can put them on and take them off if needed.

New Menu

Before the half term I informed you that we would be returning to the old-style menu. Unfortunately, there has been a delay and this will not be starting until Monday 16th November. As soon as I have the details, I will email them to you and put them on the school's website. In the meantime, next week we will follow Week 2 menu, which can be found on the school website at: <https://www.carpenters.newham.sch.uk/documents/School-Menus.pdf>.

Children in Need 2020

Next Friday (13th November) is Children in Need day. We would like to celebrate this day (In a Covid friendly way) by having some fun and raising lots of money in the following ways:

- 1) Non-uniform day - children do not have to wear uniform but please make sure they are warm enough with lots of layers! A donation of at least £1 would be greatly appreciated. Money will be collected in a pot at the classroom door and quarantined for 72 hours before being counted by the office staff!
- 2) Every class is going to be involved in an 'Act Your Age' Challenge. During assembly time on Monday, the children will watch a presentation on Children in Need, then they will be asked to think of and agree to a class challenge that they will carry out on Friday. You can find out more by visiting the website at: <https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/fundraising/act-your-age/>.

School Travel Plan Award 2019/20

I am delighted to inform you that the school received a bronze accreditation for the 'STARS a TfL Community Project' for the school year 2019-2020. The project is committed to more active, safe and sustainable travel. Well done to Miss Hobbs and her team of adults and children who supported the work that went into this great achievement. Next year our aim is for Silver! More details can be found at: <https://stars.tfl.gov.uk/>.