



School Values

Responsible Excellence Share Polite Encourage Communicate Truth

Information and Procedures - 16th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This has been such a long half term - only 1 more week till the half term holiday! Children have been really busy settling back into school and their education. Our focus has been on children's wellbeing and finding out where they all are in their learning. Next half term we will arrange virtual parent/carer meetings so you can find out how your child is getting on.

A number of parents/carers have asked me about the half term holiday and whether this will be extended due to the local lockdown. At the moment, the dates are as planned - Monday 26th October until Tuesday 3rd November - children returning to school on Wednesday 4th November.

There is talk of a national "circuit break" to help to halt the virus, which would mean school could be closed for two weeks. At this stage this is still talk and no dates have been given. Should there be any change to the holiday I will let you know as soon as possible. Dates for the whole academic year can be found on the school's website at

<https://www.carpenters.newham.sch.uk/term-dates.html>.

Diane Barrick - Headteacher

COVID-19 Update

A parent/carer has the symptoms and is going to get a COVID-19 test, do the children have to stay off school and self-isolate?

Yes, all members of the household must now stay home for 14 days from the start of the symptoms or until a negative result is received.

London has moved into Tier 2 lockdown. What are the new rules?

The additional rules to follow are:

- you must not socialise with anybody outside of your household or support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place;
- you must not socialise in a group of more than 6 outside, including in a garden or other space like beaches or parks;
- you can continue to travel to venues or amenities that are open, for work or to access education, but should look to reduce the number of journeys you make where possible;
- work from home where you can effectively do so;
- walk or cycle where possible, or plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport.

Please remember to continue to:

- wash your hands regularly;
- wear a face covering in public;
- avoid travelling by public transport wherever possible;
- self-isolate and seek a test if you have any Covid-19 symptoms;
- self-isolate if a member of your household develops any Covid-19 symptoms and get them to seek a test;
- keep a distance of two metres between yourself and others.

Is my child still allowed to come into school?

Yes. All schools will remain open and attendance is mandatory.

For more advice use the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-levels-what-you-need-to-know>

I've been told to self-isolate but I can't afford not to work. What can I do?

From Monday 28 September 2020 it has been a legal requirement to self-isolate if you or someone who you have been in close contact with tests positive for COVID-19. The Government introduced new measures to provide financial support to those who cannot work while self-isolating through a Test and Trace support payment of £500. For more details use the following link - <https://www.newham.gov.uk/CovidSupportPayment>.

I hope this information is helpful. As always, 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.

I wish you all a very enjoyable and safe weekend. Remember - **HANDS, FACE & SPACE!**

Wear Red Day - Show Racism the Red Card

I would like to say a huge thank you to you all for supporting your children to take part in this important awareness event today - what a wonderful way to end the week! We really have embraced wearing red, to show our support for such an important cause. As a school, we remain committed to stamping out racism, and being anti-racist in all that we do - the curriculum we teach, the policies and procedures that underpin our practice, and the conversations we have as a staff team but also with the children through PSHE, P4C and Thrive. We believe this has been such a positive way to launch our Black History Month celebrations next week, as well as an important reminder of our longer-term vision - to embed these important messages into everything we do at Carpenters. I look forward to sharing this throughout the year. Watch this space!

Social Distancing at the gates

As we move into a Tier 2 lockdown, please help us to support each other by keeping our distance when lining up at the gates before and after school. When your child enters or exits the gates, please step away to give space for the next family to collect their child/ren.

Peer Mentoring Project

This week, the children in year 6 have been offered the opportunity to become peer-mentors, for younger children across the school. This afternoon, many will be bringing home application forms, which they must complete over the weekend and bring back on **Tuesday 20th October**. Please encourage your child to take part, if you feel they would benefit from developing their organisation and time-keeping skills, or if you think your child could do with a boost of confidence and could empathise well with younger children. Why not help them complete the application and support them to think about the skills they already have? The project is being led by Jordan, our school trainee counsellor, so for further information, please contact him through the school office and he'll be happy to assist.

Reading Books & Journals

A reminder to all parents/carers, reading books and journals are sent home every Monday and should be returned to school every Friday. Plastic wallets have been provided for all children to avoid them getting messy and/or wet!

Strengthening Families - Open Conversation

We have been asked by Newham Council to advertise this event:

Newham Council are providing an opportunity for parents/carers to communicate with them openly and transparently in a safe, non-judgemental environment about their experiences of racism and inequality in Newham. The group events will last for 1 and 1/2 hours and will be held virtually via Zoom. Newham are offering gift vouchers to parents/carers who attend to show their appreciation. In addition, they are also offering a 1:1 conversation via phone or WhatsApp, if parents/carers prefer this method of communication.

If you are a parent/carer in Newham and would like to attend an event, please send your name and contact details to strengthening.families@newham.gov.uk or phone 020 3373 7047.