



Newsletter
4th December 2020



Dear parents and carers,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well. It has been wonderful to see so many more children back this week, and I have been very pleased by how well children have re-settled back into school, and seem so happy to be back. On Monday, we are all very much looking forward to the return of years 5 and 6, meaning that we will have everybody back in school once again.

This week, I would like to update you on the following:

Christmas

As with many aspects of our lives at the moment, we will have to celebrate Christmas slightly differently this year. However, Christmas is a time of hope and new beginnings, and in spite of the difficulties that we have faced this year through Coronavirus, we are fully committed to offering an enriching and fun-filled Christmas experience for your children at this very special time of year. We have organised the following for children to participate in:

The annual Christmas Jumper Day will take place on **Friday 11th December**. We will be raising money for Save The Children and any donation, big or small, will be very welcome. Children can bring money in with them and donate in boxes near their entry points or you can donate online on the Save The Children website. Please see this link for further information:

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day>

On **Monday 14th December**, Father Tom and Reverend Jackie will join us virtually from Church for a reading of the nativity story. We will record the service and send you a link so that you can watch it back with your children.

On **Tuesday 15th December at 5:30 pm**, children from Reception, years 1, 2 and 4 will be representing the school through a display of their art work and a recording of Away in a Manger as part of Canary Wharf Group's carol service. This service is pre-recorded, and will be streamed via this link: <https://bit.ly/CWCarols> It will be available for parents to view until the end of December.

Christmas Dinner will be served on **Wednesday 16th December** and, after turkey and Brussel sprouts, the children will be encouraged to wear their party hats as we join Norfolk Music Hub for their panto!

You can access all the songs to practice at home by going to <https://www.norfolkmusicclub.org.uk/site/rapunzel-resources/> and using the password: RapunzelNorfolk

All classes are also looking forward to recording a carol and special Christmas message on Christmas Jumper Day that will be shared with you before we finish for the Christmas holidays. Please note that we will honour all existing photo consents from parents for this recording. If you would like your child to be part of this recording, but you have signed your photo consent form requesting for your child **not** to be photographed, then please email the school office (admin@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk) as soon as possible to explain this, so that your child is able to take part. We will share these videos with parents of each class, but we please request, for safeguarding purposes, that these are not shared on social media. A final note on this, is that we are still subject to government restrictions on children singing. Children are encouraged not to sing loudly, and can only sing at a maximum of 15 at a time. Please do bear this in mind when watching the video recordings, but we are sure it will still be a lovely activity for both children and their parents!

Finally, we welcome children bringing in Christmas cards, but we ask that these are kept strictly for children and adults in their own bubble please. As with birthdays at the moment, please do not send your child in with Christmas food treats to share with their peers.



Newsletter



Coronavirus

As a school, we have a responsibility to inform Public Health in the event of a positive case of Covid-19 among our pupils or staff. This all forms part of the NHS contact tracing system in place. Whilst we all clearly very much hope that we do not have any positive cases in the lead up to Christmas, we are obliged to inform Public Health if there is a case. If your child does test positive during the Christmas holidays, we would kindly ask that you inform Rebecca Abrahams by phone. The telephone number for this contact is 07932 995213. Please note that during school term time you would continue to contact myself and/or Rebecca by either telephoning the school or emailing us.

Flu vaccinations

A reminder that these will take place for all children who were absent last week, on the afternoon of Wednesday 9th December.

BARTS NHS TRUST: COVID VACCINE INFORMATION SESSION

We have received the following information from Barts NHS Trust, which we felt might be useful to share with families.

As you may be aware, the COVID vaccine will be rolled out soon, and there is concern that many people and communities will be wary about taking the vaccine. There is a lot of mistrust and conspiracy theories already being shared across communities and this will impact vaccine rates across groups that have been impacted by COVID.

There has also been a lack of BAME involvement in clinical trials for the vaccine, possibly due of the lack of information and trust on the vaccine.

As a result, Barts NHS Trust is hosting an online information and discussion session next Monday 7th at 6.30 pm. The attached flyer contains registration details.

Speakers and panellists include:

- Rev. Alan Green, Chair, Tower Hamlets Inter-faith Forum
 - Prof Patrick Kennedy, Principal Investigator, ENSEMBLE-2 vaccine trial, Barts Health
 - Dr Vanessa Apea, Sexual Health consultant, Barts Health and Black, Asian and ethnic minority engagement in research lead, NIHR Clinical Research Network: North Thames
 - Neeta Patel, Associate Director, Research Engagement, Barts Health
- Chaired by – Abbas Mirza and Yunus Dudhwala

Active Travel film

In last week's newsletter, I drew your attention to the work of the Tower Hamlets Healthy Lives Team. They have put together a short film to encourage families to walk, cycle or scoot to school. There's never been a better time to get active on the school run by choosing to walk and cycle to school. Please watch the video via the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayPiL-C5PWQ&feature=youtu.be>

Anna Fiorentini Theatre and Film School

Attached to this newsletter is a flyer with information about the return of provision from the Anna Fiorentini Theatre and Film School. Please do take a look if you are interested, as they are back up and running, and have much to offer children in the arts and performance.



Wellbeing for Education sessions for families

Tower Hamlets Council are rolling out a wellbeing programme for schools, and families, which will include training and resources on mental wellbeing. The programme will aim to support mental wellbeing and resilience and aid mental health recovery for school staff, pupils, parents and carers', in light of the impact of COVID-19 and lockdown. The Local Authority have pulled together local experts to deliver training to school staff, parents and Further Education providers, preventing as many people as possible from developing mental health difficulties and ensuring those with pre-existing or emerging difficulties access the right support. The training available for parents is all about sleep and mental health, with details outlined below. Future training dates will be shared next term. To book a place on this session, please email sultanax.begum@towerhamlets.gov.uk with the name of the session you would like to attend, your name, your child's school, and contact details. Please note that places are limited and will be booked on a first come first served basis. The sessions are free to attend and will be held online.

Sleep and Mental Health

Monday 14th December

Time: 10 – 11am

The Healthy Lives Team will be hosting a free online webinar which aims to provide staff and parents with practical, easy to understand knowledge about sleep, interesting facts and a range of strategies and tips to take away and apply that very same evening! The webinars will cover topics such as the importance of sleep, identifying barriers to sleep, sleep cycles, routines and much more!

Staffing update

Today we say goodbye to Ms. Chandler as she leaves for her maternity leave. I am sure you will join me in wishing Ms. Chandler all the very best for the exciting time her and her family have ahead. We will also have another teacher, Ms. Sheppard, going on maternity in April next year. For the parents of children in Ms. Sheppard's class, I would like to reassure you that Ms. Sheppard will continue to provide excellent provision in class until she leaves in April, and that we will begin a rigorous recruitment process next term to ensure that the children continue to receive high quality teaching in her absence.

Wishing you an enjoyable and restful weekend.

With best wishes,

Cristina King

Head of School