



Newsletter
6th November 2020



Dear parents and carers,

Firstly, as always, I hope that this newsletter finds you well, and that you enjoyed a relaxing half term.

It will, unfortunately, not likely come as much of a surprise that the bulk of this week's newsletter will be focused on procedures and protocols related to Coronavirus safety measures. The safety of all our school community is our absolute priority, and so as we enter another period of national lockdown, we thank you for your support in following these procedures, and for your continued understanding.

The period of national lockdown that we are entering is significantly different for us this time around, in that all schools remain fully open to all pupils. We do understand that for some there will be considerable anxiety about the rise in cases, and the need for stricter measures. As a school, we continue to rigorously implement our risk assessment and follow all of the strict safety measures that we have outlined. An updated risk assessment will be on our school website early next week. All of the existing measures we had in place still exist, alongside some new procedures to further reduce risk.

You will have no doubt heard in the press about the wearing of masks in schools. In secondary schools, the government guidance has changed this week. However, in primary schools, the same rules apply and children are not required to wear masks at any point of the school day. As an additional safety measure, as a school we have asked all adults to wear masks in communal areas around the school. In classrooms, teachers are not required to wear a mask, but may choose to do so. However, any visitor to that classroom from outside of the year group bubble, will wear a mask. This further protects the integrity of our bubble system.

I would like to thank you as parents for wearing a mask when dropping off and collecting your children. Please can we ask that you all continue to do this every day, as we endeavour to keep each other safe.

Symptoms and testing

Attached to this newsletter is a flyer which has been sent to us by the health authorities in Tower Hamlets. It outlines what you should do if your child, or any member of your household, displays symptoms of Coronavirus, and how to book a test. It also explains actions that you should take around isolation, and what to do in the case of a positive result. Our risk assessment also explains this in detail. If, at any point, you do feel unsure about any of these processes, please do not hesitate to contact me. The flyers are also attached in Bengali and Somali.

Actions in the case of a positive result

This week, as you will know, we have had to close our year 2 bubble because of a positive case. The rest of the school has remained open, whilst year 2 are receiving remote learning. When there is a positive case in school, we follow public health procedures. To briefly outline, the key steps we have to take in the case of a positive result are as follows:

- Identify and notify close contacts in the school. For the majority of cases, because of the bubble system, this would be limited to the year group, but there may have been a permitted circumstance where other individuals were also a close contact.
- Notify the Department for Education immediately of any positive case. The DfE then advise us on further action to take, such as, for example, closure of a bubble, for up to 14 days.
- Notify the Local Authority of any cases.
- Individuals are encouraged to complete contact tracing information, and to include the school's details. The school is integrated with the national Track and Trace programme.
- Parents and the school community are informed in the case where it could impact upon them and their child.

Again, please do contact me if you wish to seek further clarification on this. I appreciate how much information is being given all around us about Coronavirus at the moment, some of it seemingly ever-changing, and we are here to support you with this.

We are all looking forward to welcoming year 2 back to school next week.



After school clubs (include Energy Kidz and Engineering minds)

I am really pleased to be able to say that we will be continuing to run after school clubs. Government guidance states that schools can continue to run after school provision on site. As before, we will be sticking rigorously to our bubble systems at all times for all clubs running. I feel it is even more valuable that our after school provision can continue to run, as many off-site after school activities such as swimming lessons and grassroots sports club have been ordered to close.

Energy Kidz and Engineering Minds (Lego Robotics club) will continue to run as before. Please find attached some information leaflets from Energy Kidz detailing their latest safety procedures. Please also note that there are still a few slots left for Thursday's Engineering Minds club, which is for Key Stage 2 children. I have attached the flyer that was sent out with a previous newsletter, in case any parents are interested.

Uniform

As part of our risk assessment, and in line with all scientific evidence, we seek to ventilate the school building as much as possible to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus. We do now have the heating on in school, and the classrooms do feel warm, but as the weather turns colder some children might feel a bit colder inside at some points. Therefore, we will allow for appropriate items of clothing, such as a thicker jumper, which is not strictly school uniform. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions about this.

Support from the Parental Engagement Team

Below is a link to the Parental Engagement Team web page. With Covid-19 infection rates rising and more families having to isolate, the Parental Engagement Team continue to support parents to navigate this changing learning landscape with their offer of virtual sessions.

These free sessions, which focus on learning, health and wellbeing, give parents an opportunity to share their experiences, ask questions and pick up some handy tips from experienced practitioners.

The link will prove you details on how to book. The sessions will be done via Zoom.

https://www.localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk/blog_articles/2811-support-children-s-learning-with-free-virtual-sessions-for-parents

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

With best wishes,

Cristina King

Head of School