



Newsletter

27th March 2020
Volume 19, Issue 23



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

It goes without saying that you are all greatly missed. I dearly hope that you are keeping well, both emotionally and physically, as we all respond to significant changes in our day to day lives. Having said I would not write a newsletter, one week in there is so much to share with you, so please anticipate hearing from me each week going forward, as normal.

Staff have continued to demonstrate their immense commitment to our community here at the school. Consequently, the school site has been open every day, enabling us to provide for the children of key workers as well as children considered vulnerable at this time, some with Education Health Care plans.

First week of remote learning

Thank you to all of you who have dropped by the school this week to collect the packs to support learning from home. If you have not yet been able to do that, please know that your child's pack is here, awaiting collection, and the school can be accessed between 8 and 3:30pm every day. We estimate that to date 90% of packs have been either collected or delivered by school staff, which is really positive.

Teachers and teaching assistants have been really pleased with the numbers of children who have undertaken and submitted the work set through the class teams. Lou Rae in Year 4 fed back to me that: 'It has been so lovely to see the children's enthusiasm and their want to learn. It is evident that they need us online for not only help but to know we are there for them and some sense of normality. I've even learnt a lot about the Onedrive and loved marking their work.'

We have lent out a significant number of Chrome books and adapted lap tops to support families in accessing the learning and Ms. Nagahwatte and Ms. King have been working around the clock to answer queries and provide support to families to get onto the class teams. If you continue to experience difficulties, please let us know. We are currently seeking to purchase more equipment and so should be able to lend more out after the Easter break to those of you who need it.

Teachers are being creative and seeking to set the children learning tasks across the curriculum. Some aspects of the curriculum are less well suited to remote learning. Please don't worry if you think your child is receiving less of some subjects than others. Once school resumes as normal, we will review the curriculum plans to ensure that areas missed are then addressed, even if this takes us into the next academic year to catch up.

Please remember that the class teams are 'the new classroom' and hence a space for the children to interact with the teaching teams. If you as a parent or carer have a question or comment to make about the learning, please instead use the email set up which is: homelearning@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk and a member of the Senior Leadership team will get back to you within 2 working days.

Easter holidays

Please note that the school will be closed over the Easter holidays. From 5:00pm on Friday 3rd April until 8am on Monday 20th April, there will not be any one on the school site. This is because we feel it is beneficial for all staff to have 14 days away from the school site and each other, and the time to rest after what has been a very challenging time for them.

As this is a planned holiday period, please also understand that remote learning will cease for this period and we will freeze the class teams until the new term resumes.

All learning will resume again, once the Summer term starts, on Monday 20th April.

Childcare over Easter for Key Workers

Holiday Childcare will be operating from St Mary's and St Michael's school from the 6th April. The scheme is open for Key workers only. More information is available on

https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ignl/education_and_learning/extra-curricular_activities/school_holiday_schemes.aspx

Additionally, there will be provision in a Hub school on the Island. As soon as I can confirm arrangements for that I will let you know. It is anticipated that one or two members of staff from St. Luke's will work at the Hub school over Easter, thereby being a familiar adult for attending children.

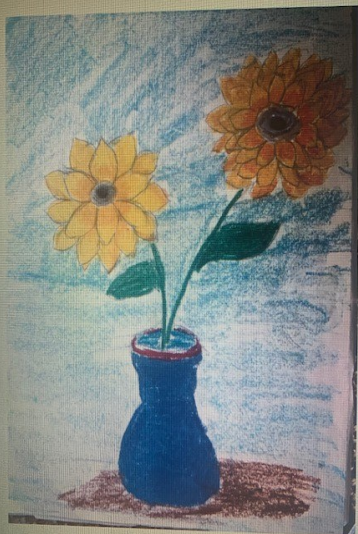
Provision for children in families eligible for Free School Meals

Those families will receive a separate letter from me regarding the additional support available to them in the coming weeks.

Information for parents and carers in Tower Hamlets

Information for parents is now available on the Tower Hamlets Local Offer https://www.localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk/blog_articles/2636-covid-19-updates-and-information as well as the LBTH schools page which is: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/coronavirus/schools

Take care and keep well everyone, Best wishes Rebecca Abrahams



Teachers are taking remote learning across the curriculum. Year 2 had a study of Van Gogh this week. Well done to Sini and Calvin for their interpretations of his Sunflower painting .



Ideas to support home learning at key times during the day



https://youtu.be/6v-a_dpwhro

9.00am - PE with Joe Wicks (Primary, Secondary and Adults)

To help maintain your physical fitness whether at school or home Joe Wicks; The Body Coach, will be live streaming 'PE with Joe' every morning at 9am on YouTube. Previous episodes will also be accessible on his YouTube channel. Suitable for all ages, but quite hard work! So even if you just do 10 or 15 minutes, that is still great



<https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>

11.00am - English with David Walliams (Age 9 upwards)

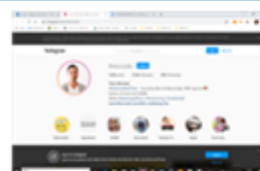
Every day at 11am you can listen to one of David Walliams' Worst Children stories for free! This glorious collection of ten stories will make you very glad you don't know anyone like this in real life! You can also download literary activity sheets.



<https://ddmixforschools.com/>

1.30pm - Dance with Darcey Bussell

The dance company founded by Darcy Bussell, need we say more, will be live streaming every day at 1.30 on Facebook live, delivering a 10min shake up and giving children a short active boost before the afternoon ahead. So whether you want to be prima ballerina, a strictly judge or just keep fit and active, this is for you!



<https://www.theocooks.com/kids-cookalong-live/>

4.00pm - Home Economics with Theo Michaels (Primary, Secondary & Adults)

Recipe inspiration for hungry people, Theo Michaels will be doing a live cook-a-long every Monday and Wednesday at 4pm on Instagram and YouTube of simple food using just a few ingredients. The goal is to keep children and young people occupied and engaged teaching them an essential life skill and hopefully also make dinner! He will be posting the ingredients and equipment needed each week so you can be prepared. You can also message him with any questions or advice if you want to swap any ingredients.

Further ideas to support home learning

Maths with Carol Vorderman (Age 4–12 years old)

Carol Vorderman makes maths fun with this interactive website, including daily sessions, games, rewarding targets, course topics and parent's zone. This is normally at a cost of £2 per week but has been made free for the foreseeable future. www.themathsfactor.com

History with Dan Snow (free for 30 days)

Get 30 days free (£5.99 after this) on History Hit TV and enjoy unlimited viewing of hundreds of history documentaries, interviews, films and ad-free podcasts.

<https://tv.historyhit.com/signup/package>

Music with Myleene Klass

Myleene Klass offers free music lessons for your children.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQh2wgJ5tOrixYBn6jFXsXQ>

If you haven't already done so, please visit our school website and go to this page:

<https://www.st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk/school-closure-home-learning>

There you will find a multitude of additional resources that you can tap into, once your child has completed the work set by the class teaching teams, if you would like your child to do more.

In particular, you will find new Phonics Sound videos for children in Reception, provided by our Reception teacher Sabena, and you will also find Harvey sharing a story for children in Nursery!

Additionally there are links for subjects across the curriculum and age ranges as well as targeted resources designed to be used to support children with Special Educational Needs .

Lastly, you will also find a number of important links for safeguarding and wellbeing that include:

- Daily meditations for children and adults;
- Short videos from BBC Newsround with information for children who are worried about the Coronavirus;
- Guidance on how to talk to children about Covid-19;
- Guidance on how to enable safe on line use for your children at a time when screen time is likely to be significantly enhanced.

Please also refer to these videos designed by our very own Mr. Griffiths from Year 6 to help you and your child with completing and submitting assignments.

- Student view assignment <https://youtu.be/eK1ZBtfeeqI>
- Working on assignment <https://youtu.be/dMMy8ekbbGk>

Lastly for this week, there are two attachments to this newsletter that I hope you will find helpful:

- A home learning fact sheet—with top tips to consider, particularly in regards to routine and the value of timetables.
- A 'Think u Know' parent's help sheet—again with an eye on safe internet use.