



Newsletter

03.04.2020

Our values this week have been **courage** and **enthusiasm**.

The following children have been nominated by their teachers:

Charlotte Smith 1R for all the enthusiasm she has shown in thinking of creative and practical ways to access her learning at home.

1S Charlotte Seaward 1S: For keeping up the same enthusiasm for learning which she had in school at home, and showing real determination to keep finding the fun in her school work!

Roman Jones, 2C, 'has shown such wonderful enthusiasm with his online learning. He is working so hard and the Year 2 team are feeling very proud of him'.

Alex Klos, 2B, Alex has been courageous in his approach to using Teams. He's very independent at posting and communicating with everyone kindly. Alex has shown enthusiasm with all his work, creating interesting projects and doing his best in all subjects.

We look forward to hearing about more children in the newsletter after Easter.



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has felt harder this week as the reality of what we are facing as a country has really hit home.

Nevertheless, with courage we have continued....

This week we have maintained provision everyday for the children of Key Worker parents and other children who might be vulnerable at this time.

Ms. N. has continued to see families to provide them with Chrome books to enable their children to access the learning through the class teams. Ms. King and Ms. N. have spoken with lots of you to iron out any difficulties you are facing in respect of the teams.

Now, almost all of the home learning packs have been collected.

Free School Meals

A big focus of this week has been seeking to put in place provision for children who are eligible for a Free School Meal each day.

In this borough this is confusing because, as a result of the Mayor's commitment, all children from Reception to Year 6 get a free school meal everyday whether or not they are eligible.

Whereas, during this 'lockdown' period, only children eligible for a free school meal, were able to collect food from us this week, and also to be registered for the National Voucher Scheme.

This week, we have seen approximately 90 families, who have visited the school to collect food packages to replace the daily free school meal for which their child was eligible. Some of whom had not achieved eligibility with the borough.

If you would like to be registered to receive either a weekly food package or weekly voucher per week per child to the value of £15, you must register with the LA for Free School Meals.

You can do this by calling 0207 364 5000 or by visiting this page: [https://benefitforms.towerhamlets.gov.uk/VictoriaForms/Viewer-VicForms.asp?user=anon&Form=Free%20School%20Meals%20\(1.0\).wdf](https://benefitforms.towerhamlets.gov.uk/VictoriaForms/Viewer-VicForms.asp?user=anon&Form=Free%20School%20Meals%20(1.0).wdf)

To complete the process you will need your National Insurance Number and your Housing Benefit Number.

Please do this, so that you can benefit, and also the school will benefit from increased Pupil Premium Funding once the school resumes.

Children's learning update

It has been great to see the children on line accessing the work in teams however, it is generating a very high level of work for the teachers and class teams to manage. To maintain manageability please note the following;

Work that is handed in on the day it is set (or by the deadline specified by the teacher) will be marked and feedback provided, as appropriate.

Work that is submitted past the deadline set, will be acknowledged, but not necessarily marked in detail.

Hopefully during this challenging time, we can be flexible with you and you can be flexible with us.

Hardship

We recognise that as a result of this national crisis you may find yourselves suddenly facing challenging circumstances. We are lucky to have received some funding from Canary Wharf Group which we can use to support some families, so if you are worried and would like a chat, please get in touch with me on head@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk

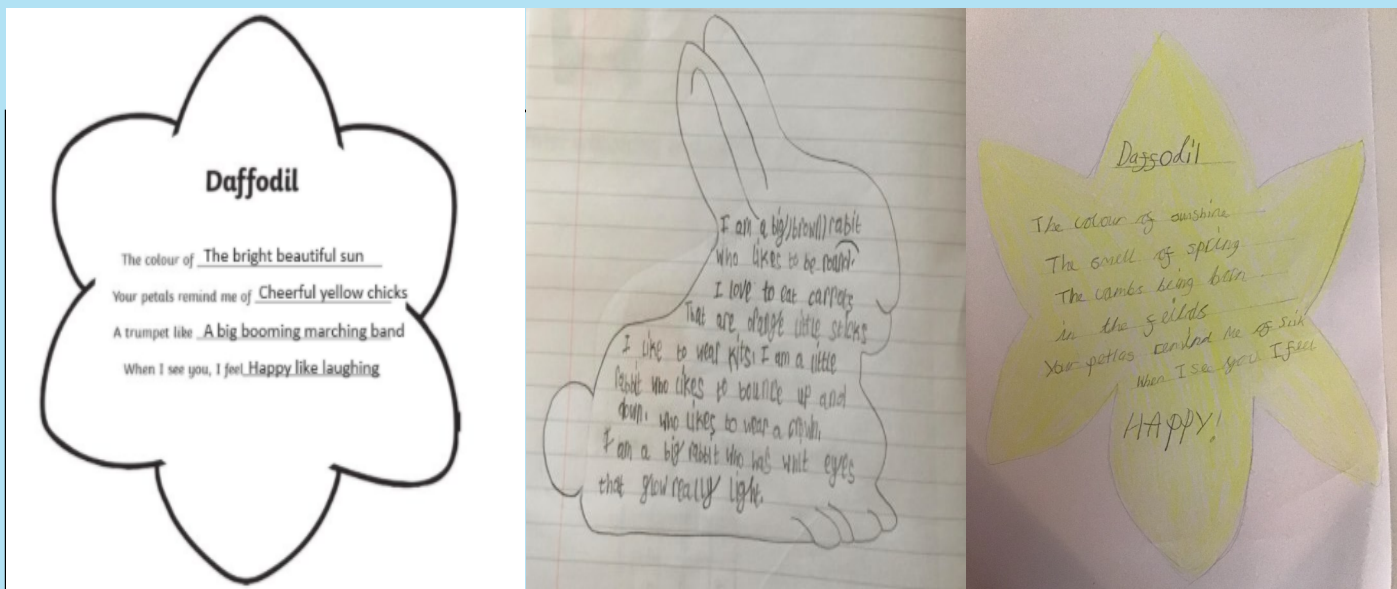
I have also prioritised 'support for parents' in this issue, so I hope you find the next few pages helpful.

School and the class teams will be closed now for the two week break. We will next open on Monday 20 April, in our current form. Best wishes for a happy, if somewhat unusual, Easter, Rebecca Abrahams

NUT FREE SCHOOL



THANK YOU



Work published in the teams and shared by their teachers Ms. Chandler and Ms. Bell this week, is from Year 2. The children have been developing their use of shape poems, helping us all to think about some positive images of Easter and Spring. The first poem is by Violet Hill, the second by Taylor Downey and the third is by Elsie Lakey. Congratulations to those children and thank you for sharing your work.

Here some new ideas to keep the children entertained over the Easter holidays.

Carbon Footprint have developed a series of free fact sheets, quizzes, votes, and planning sheets all focused on the Environment and becoming a Carbon Footprint Hero. All the activities are ones that can be done entirely at home, whilst observing social distancing and other COVID-19 related requirements.

The Carbon Footprint Hero resources are designed for 7-13 year olds, though younger children will be able to enjoy perhaps with a little help from old siblings/a parent or guardian. These will help to support STEM learning.

The CarbonFootprint Hero resources are available on <https://www.carbonfootprint.com/carbonfootprinthero.html>

Timotay Playscapes are excited to announce our exciting competition...

We are giving the children within your setting the chance to win a **FREE Climbing Frame** for your school!

To take part, please visit our website www.timotayplayscapes.co.uk/win where you will find the competition pack available to download.

The competition will provide the children with the opportunity to test out their creative skills and importantly have fun creating their dream climbing frame! The winning design will be manufactured and installed, so be sure to take part! Let their imaginations run free!

The competition will bring together design skills, maths, science and writing skills, so a great educational resource and lots of fun combined! To download the pack, [click here](#)

Visit the National Museums...

The Natural History Museum: <https://britishmuseum.withgoogle.com/>

An interactive experience through time, continents and cultures, featuring some of the most fascinating objects in human history. You will also be able to listen to the British Museum curators share their insights.

Did you know- One of the oldest objects in the museum is a stone chopping tool from Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania which is dated to about 1.8 million years ago? It was used with another hard stone and could be used to chop branches from trees, cut meat from large animals or smash bones for marrow fat, an essential part of early human diet.

Make sure you check out Change4Life! It's important for children to drink lots of fluids, but sometimes it's tough to know which ones are healthy. Have a look at this to help you learn together about which drinks are healthy and which drinks to avoid:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/food-facts/healthier-snacks-for-kids/lower-sugar-drinks-for-kids-stop-tooth-decay>

You'll also find lots of recipes for healthy family meals to experiment with as well.

Learn how to draw cartoon characters:

<https://www.cartoonmuseum.org/learning-resources>

Here follows guidance received for parents for other matters in relation to the current pandemic situation.



Coronavirus and welfare - Summary of benefit changes (accurate from 23/03/2020 when written)

Changes to Statutory Sick Pay

SSP will now be made payable from the first day of absence (previously the fourth day) if you are unable to work due to coronavirus. You will be eligible for payment if you are required to self-isolate due to government guidance and this measure will take effect from 13 March 2020. Please note that you do not need to be infected as this covers anyone that needs to self-isolate.

If employers request evidence 'Isolation notes' are now available at <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>.

Please note that you will only be eligible for SSP if you are classed as an 'employee'. If you are self-employed you may need to claim Universal Credit instead. To claim SSP you need to contact your employer.

Changes to Universal Credit

A number of new changes have been brought in for Universal Credit since the COVID 19 crisis. From the 6th of April the standard allowance will increase by approximately £20 a week to new and existing claims (also applicable to any existing working tax credit claims).

In addition the 'minimum income floor' has been lifted for anyone self-employed whilst claiming Universal Credit for the period that any claimant has been affected by the virus. This applies to new and existing claims and will be in place for the duration of the outbreak. Claimants will temporarily not need to demonstrate 'gainful self-employment'.

Changes to Health Care Assessments and Job Centre appointments

All face to face assessments for Personal Independence Payment and Limited Capability for Work have been suspended for three months. Anyone who already has an assessment arranged is not required to attend and should be contacted by the Independent Assessment Service for next steps. This is applicable to new and existing claims.

Furthermore, all in person appointments at local job centers have been cancelled for three months from 19th March 2020. All requirements to attend the Job Centre have been temporarily suspended and job centers are now only open to support homeless and vulnerable people to aid making fresh claims.

Advance payments under Universal Credit can now be made without attending the job centre and any required checks for new claims and documents will be completed remotely or via phone.

Community Navigators COVID 19 Service Change



In response to COVID19 the Community Navigator face to face support service will be suspended until further notice.

We will however continue to take referrals and to offer a remote service by telephone and online. Community Navigators will be able to provide the following support to residents and community groups.

Signposting to local support such as foodbanks, voluntary groups, digital social groups etc
Signposting Financial advice services

Guidance from the last page continued:

General advice on keeping safe during the outbreak

Signposting to the Council's support services

Signposting to local support such as foodbanks, voluntary groups, digital social groups etc

Signposting Financial advice services

Healthcare service information

Assisted support (telephone calls, email on behalf of vulnerable or isolated)

We are working hard to find ways to deliver our services through other channels and continue the much-needed support and advice during these difficult times.

Email : navigators@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Telephone: NE locality (Sasha): 0207 364 6924, 07716 700152

NW locality (Lisa): 0207 364 3172, 0794 000 0874

SW locality (Malachi): 0207 364 1176, 0792 3242108

SE Locality (Farid): 0207 364 7177, 07923 242109

Emergency contacts for people self-isolating/in need during COVID 19 in E14

Food Support

First Love Foundation – referral by agency only. Offering deliveries to vulnerable individuals who are self-isolating or experiencing income shock. Fill out advance referral form <https://firstlovefoundation.typeform.com/to/fmNvNC>
Email contact distributor@firstlovefoundation.org.uk

St Lukes Foodbank Monday - Thursday, 10am - 12noon. Fresh produce from restaurants that are sadly closing this week (24.3.20), but from next week we will be mostly onto non-perishables. We are welcoming donations from the community.

St Luke's, Millwall, Alpha Grove, E14 8LH Tel: 07730 594755

fuzz@stlukesmillwall.org

Limehouse Aid Offering food and errand runs for anyone vulnerable and/or self-isolating. Phone/text 020 3322 7452

limehouseaid@gmail.com

Shopping/errands/general support

COVID 19 Local Support groups Local groups listed according to what ward you live in and volunteers help with dropping of food/errands for vulnerable/self-isolating

2 of the Island ones are listed below but if you are not in either of those areas check for your local one on

<https://covidmutualaid.org/local-groups/>

Tower Hamlets Covid 19 Support Groups (list of all TH ones)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2740546326063053/?ref=share>

Island Gardens COVID 19 Support group Offering food and errand runs for anyone vulnerable and/or self – isolating Phone 020 3488 4594 islandgardens.covid19@gmail.com

Canary Wharf COVID 19 Support group Offering food and errand runs for anyone vulnerable and/or self – isolating Phone 0208 126 6000

canary_wharf.covid19@gmail.com

Support in 'Island'

Delivering hot meals and food packs

07983 798 791 maiumtalukdar28@gmail.com

Benefits, Housing, Debt, Financial Hardship

Island Advice Centre Advice

admin@island-advice.org.uk 0207 987 9379 Mon to Fri 10am to 4pm

Government registration for coronavirus support as an extremely vulnerable person Register if you have a

Guidance from the last page continued:

Government registration for coronavirus support as an extremely vulnerable person Register if you have a medical condition that makes you extremely vulnerable to coronavirus. E.g. getting deliveries of essential supplies. You can register yourself, or on behalf of someone else <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable>

Jo.ellis@island-advice.org.uk 27/3/20 for current version or if you have support/food/other services that

Housing Updates

Evictions ban

The Coronavirus Act 2020 has brought in a three month ban on evictions from social and private rented accommodation effective as of today Friday 27th March. The ban will be in force until 30th September with scope for renewal once the three month period is over. This protection covers most tenants in the private and social rented sectors in England and Wales, and all grounds of evictions. The ban applies both to new possession proceedings and to ongoing housing possession action.

- From Thursday 26 March 2020 landlords have to give all renters 3 months' notice if they intend to seek possession for any reason.
- No new possession proceedings are to start during the crisis – this means the landlord cannot apply to court to gain possession until after the ban is lifted.
- From 27 March 2020, all ongoing housing possession action is suspended by the courts – this means that ongoing possession cases cannot progress to the stage where someone could be evicted. This measure will protect all private and social renters, as well as those with mortgages and those with licenses covered by the Protection from Eviction Act 1977.

Tenants are still liable for their rent and should pay this as usual. Support is available for tenants facing financial hardship. If tenants think they will have difficulty meeting a rental payment they should speak to their landlord in the first instance, and if needed a rent payment scheme should be set up. Once the emergency is over, landlords and tenants are encouraged to work together to resolve disputes and arrears, taking into account tenants' individual circumstances.

The full government guidance is [available here](#). Landlords seeking possession are required to use updated forms which reflect the new legislation – form 3 and 6A have been updated [here](#).

More information is available at [Nearly Legal](#). Housing campaign and renter groups are expressing concern about renters accumulating arrears and facing eviction at the end of the three month ban. Generation Rent is [demanding protections for renters](#) who face getting into debt. London Renters Union has a [petition calling on the government to protect renters](#) during the coronavirus crisis.

Tower Hamlets housing advice and enforcement services

Our private housing advice team are continuing to provide advice over email and by phone. Please contact housing.advice@towerhamlets.gov.uk or 02073643558 if you need support.

The housing options counter service at Albert Jacob House in Bethnal Green is closed until further notice. Residents who are homeless or who are at risk of becoming homeless, should call 0207 364 7474 where a member of the housing team will be able to assess their case and advise on their housing options. Any other enquiries should be directed to homelessness@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Environmental health, licensing and trading standards can be reached on 020 7364 5008 or at environmental.health@towerhamlets.gov.uk, licensing@towerhamlets.gov.uk and trading.standards@towerhamlets.gov.uk

I'm available during working hours at the number below – it redirects to my mobile. Do get in touch if you need any assistance.

Katya Metay, Housing Policy Officer, LBTH, Town Hall, Mulberry Place London E14 2BG, Tel 0207 364 6040 or email katya.metay@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Guidance from the last page continued:

Information and advice for parents and carers who live in Tower Hamlets

For the latest information, advice and support visit
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/coronavirus

Education related questions

The Department for Education has a dedicated helpline **0800 046 8687** from 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday) and 10am to 4pm (Saturday and Sunday).

Welfare / benefits / council tax

For information about local organisations offering advice on Universal Credit and other welfare issues, visit Tower Hamlets Community Advice Network at **www.thcan.org.uk** or for support with your council tax call **020 7364 5002**.

Support with food

If you are high-risk or self-isolating due to coronavirus contact Bow Food Bank to supply and deliver food on **info@bowfoodbank.org** or call the First Love Foundation on **020 3069 9877**.

Concerns about children and young people

Call **020 7364 5006**.

Information and signposting families to services

Contact the Family Information Service on **020 7364 6495** or visit the Local Offer - Online directory of services **www.localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk**

If you have been identified as high-risk, extremely vulnerable or your requirement is urgent, call **020 7364 3030** (Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm. Saturday 10am to 5pm. Sunday 10am to 4pm).

Further access to food

Community Fridge

Where: Bromley-by-Bow Centre (Connection Zone), St Leonard's Street, London, E3 3BT

When: Wednesdays, 9:30am until supplies last

More info: Drop in. Kate Coules on 07983 290940.

Bethnal Green Food Bank

Where: St Matthew's Church, St Matthew's Row, London E2 6DT

When: 1st and 3rd Friday of the month, 10am-12pm

More info: Drop in. **rector@st-matthews.co.uk**, 0207 739 7586

Foodcycle

'Takeaway' service; on Fridays at 7pm at the Methodist Church, 1 Merchant Street, E3 4LY. This service is open for anyone with a special emphasis for those who may be vulnerable. They are looking to setup a home delivery service especially for the elderly and are currently talks with their corporate partners which they will trial out next week.

Markets and shops

Iceland will be opening their store from 9 to 11am every Wednesdays exclusively for the elderly and vulnerable people in the community.

The borough's food markets remain open for purchasing fruit and vegetables. Traders are concerned that their usual suppliers are running low on stock, and alternatives are being explored. The council is keen to keep traders selling fresh and affordable produce.

Guidance from the last page continued:

Offers of support

Kawser, Avid and Bassir have offered to deliver food to elderly residents in need from ASDA Cross-harbour. Call 07930 822182/07931 722968

Isle of dogs COVID 19 Support group Offers food and errand runs for anyone vulnerable and/or self - isolating Phone 020 3488 4594

Islandgardens.covid19@gmail.com

Royal Docks COVID-19 Mutual Aid

<https://www.facebook.com/RoyalVictoriaDocksCovid19>

Supporting your community

Volunteer

Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets have a variety of roles to support the local community during the Covid-19 pandemic. Find all the details you need on [here](#).

GrowTH, a night shelter in Tower Hamlets need volunteers. If you know anyone who interested in volunteering, people can help for an evening, stay overnight, or help with breakfast in the morning.

The NHS continues to look for [volunteer responders](#) in a number of roles.

Register someone (or yourself) as extremely vulnerable to the government for coronavirus support

Register if you have a medical condition that makes you extremely vulnerable to coronavirus. For example, you'll be able to ask for help getting deliveries of essential supplies like food. If you're not sure whether your medical condition makes you extremely vulnerable, register anyway. You can register yourself, or on behalf of someone else. [Register](#).

Additional advice for groups with specific mental health needs

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-the-public-on-the-mental-health-and-wellbeing-aspects-of-coronavirus-covid-19#additional-advice-for-groups-with-specific-mental-health-needs>

Please visit this site to make sure that your parental controls are up to date to protect your children on line....

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>