

HOST BOROUGH

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

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Dear Parents/carers,

Wow what a first week back! We are now in a new lockdown with most children working remotely at home. Thank you so much for engaging with this during this week, I know it has been challenging at times but we can work through this together.

Currently only the children classed as vulnerable and those of key worker children should be attending school. On Sunday Matt Hancock indicated that if only one parent is a key worker and the other parent is at home then children should stay at home. This is all to support the lockdown by limiting contact with others outside the family home and limit any possibility of transmission. From conversations I have had with some parents having children at home is challenging – this is experienced by many school staff too. We are trying to make home learning as easy to follow as possible whilst ensuring children have access to quality learning. We recognise that there are challenges with access to devices when more than one child is trying to use one device or in some cases accessing learning through a mobile phone. We have distributed some laptops to some families that were given to the school by the Department of Education however this number does not cover the need for all families in the school community. We will be working on solutions to allow greater digital access to our families however it is challenging, I am sure you have seen this is an issue across the whole country. If parents are struggling with remote learning and have not already spoken to a member of the school staff please email the school on cpwfh@centralpark.newham.sch.uk and someone will be in contact with you. We have provided paper packs of work for children however we aim to get all children working on line.

We will be in contact over the coming week with those parents entitled to Free School Meals as the government has now provided clearer guidance to schools on what will be happening for the rest of the lockdown period. Last week we distributed food packs, moving forward we will be issuing food vouchers as we did during the last lockdown.

It is unfortunate that we are seeing continued rises in Covid 19 cases across the country but infection rates are really high in London. The Government message is clear to stay at home and only go out if absolutely necessary so please avoid unnecessary journeys and reduce the risk of coming into contact with someone who has Covid 19. The vaccine has been given to certain residents in Newham this week which does offer us a glimmer of hope in the coming months. If you have any symptoms of Covid-19 (a new persistent cough, temperature or change to – or loss of – your sense of taste or smell) you must self-isolate and get a test. Children must not attend school if they have symptoms or someone in their household has had a positive Covid 19 result.

Free rapid testing is also now available for people in certain priority groups. Getting tested can help to reduce the risk of spreading infection to others who you may come into contact with at home or work. There are a variety of test sites in and near Newham, including drive-through, walk-through and mobile testing.

I did hear a nice quote over the weekend that seemed appropriate in the current circumstances ‘... if we can winter this out we can summer anywhere.’ (Seamus Heaney)

Stay safe everyone

Best wishes



Paul A J Taylor

Headteacher