



Haseltine
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tuesday 21st April

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update

Firstly, I want to thank you for your contribution to the national response to the Coronavirus pandemic. For the majority of you, being at home with your child(ren) and supporting their continued learning, alongside your own work and wellbeing, is a significant challenge in what are both unprecedented and worrying times. By doing what you all are doing you are reducing the spread of the virus and saving lives. Thank you.

You will be aware that last week the government confirmed that the lock down will continue for at least another three weeks. However, alongside this news is constant speculation about when and how schools across the country will be reopened. I want to confirm that at this time these messages are pure speculation.

Re-opening schools will be complex, even if that is partial re-opening. The priority, of course, will be to ensure that it is safe for all children, staff and parents when they return to school. At present, for those few families that are accessing school provision, you will know that social distancing is being practiced alongside good hand hygiene, and whilst learning is being supported, it is far from the reality of normal school life. For schools to re-open, clear guidance on social distancing will be required as well as ensuring that the majority of staff can return; we are aware that for some their personal circumstance means that they are required to 'shield' or live with family members who are shielding, which may mean that they need to socially isolate themselves and not return to work.

As with all decisions the government are making in relation to coronavirus, the scientific evidence will be required to underpin the timing of the decision to re-open schools as well as the process for this. I will write to you again as soon as there any planned changes to the current situation.



LONDONSCHOOLS GOLD CLUB



Headteacher
Sara Anderman

Executive Headteacher
Jeanette Brumby

To support all parents at this difficult time, yesterday the government launched a series of measures for families to assist with remote education, wellbeing and general support. The guidance can be found here alongside a whole list of on-line resources for you to use. If your child(ren) has SEND need, support can also be found in these resources.

Respectful – Resilient - Resourceful

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=cab989cd-0d5a-4ac7-9145-6445159c785f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>

In addition, the BBC have launched bitesize daily lessons, details of which can be found here - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>. As you will be aware, we are also providing as much support as we are able to with home learning resources and we will continue to develop these-over-time. I don't want parents to feel overwhelmed by the amount of learning that can be accessed online, please only access anything additional to what we are giving you if you feel you can.

Other types of support out there for you all:

NSPCC

Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice and support for parents and carers (NSPCC)

The NSPCC has created a number of resources to support parents and carers during this difficult time. Topics include:

- Parents working from home
- Children staying home alone
- Lockdown and separated parents
- How to cope with tantrums and other difficult behaviour
- Talking to a child worried about coronavirus

The advice can be found on the NSPCC website here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Please follow the link below and make an application for Free School Meals. If a decision comes back and you are entitled to free school meals, you will receive vouchers to support your shopping bills for your children: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/student-pupil-support/free-school-mealsand-extra-support-for-your-child>

KEEPING SAFE

We have all been encouraged to stay at home and stay safe, but for many women and men, home is not a safe place. The National Domestic Abuse helpline has seen a 25% increase in calls and online requests for help since we have been told to stay at home. Although this is a very stressful and anxious time for everyone, domestic abuse is unacceptable in any situation. If you are suffering from domestic abuse of any kind, or you are worried about a friend, relative, colleague or neighbour, we encourage you to seek guidance and support straight away.

IMMEDIATE DANGER:

Advice from the government is that if you are in immediate danger:

- call 999 and ask for the police.
- If you are in danger and unable to talk on the phone:

call 999, and then press 55. This will transfer your call to the relevant police force who will assist you without you having to speak.

SOURCES OF SUPPORT AND INFORMATION:

The National Domestic Abuse Helpline website (www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk) provides guidance and support for potential victims, as well as those who are worried about friends and loved ones. They can also be called, for free and in confidence, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247.

Women's Aid (www.womensaid.org.uk) has provided additional advice specifically designed for the current coronavirus outbreak, including a live chat service.

The [Men's Advice Line](http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk) (www.mensadviceline.org.uk) is a confidential helpline for male victims of domestic abuse and those supporting them. It can be contacted on 0808 801 0327.

If you are a member of the LGBT+ community, [Galop](http://www.galop.org.uk) (www.galop.org.uk) runs a specialist helpline on 0800 999 5428 or email help@galop.org.uk.

Finally, if you are worried about hurting the ones you love while staying at home, we encourage you to contact Respect Phonenumber on 0808 8024040

Please do contact us if you need to, we are trying to stay in contact with you all but, if for any reason, you don't hear from us and you need any support please do call the school.

I want to assure you that there is no expectation that your child(ren)'s education should continue as it would if they were attending school daily. All schools fully understand that during this unprecedented time, normal education across the country has been suspended. Whilst clearly it is beneficial for your child(ren) to access academic learning together with other activities that support their physical and emotional wellbeing, we recognise that each family faces different challenges at this time. As school leaders we are working hard to consider and plan for how we will bridge any gaps in your child(ren's) learning when your children return to school.

I would like to thank you for your continued support during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeanette Brumby', written over a faint, light-colored grid background.

Jeanette Brumby
Executive Headteacher