

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reopening

We are aiming to start reopening on Monday 15th October, when we will be able to provide some provision, and be fully open on Tuesday 16th October.

Year 6 will still be going on their residential journey to Fairplay House on Monday 15th and further arrangements for this will be sent out in the next few days.

Update

Treatment has continued externally today at EWPS and Stage 1 of the fumigation is now complete. There needs to be a few days between the two stages and the school will be internally fumigated again on Wednesday 10th October and externally on Thursday 11th and Friday 12th October, weather permitting.

Once the building is accessible again we need to arrange for it to be deep cleaned. Therefore we are planning to do as much of the school as possible over the weekend so that we can offer some provision on Monday 15th October. Details of this will be sent out next week. Our intention is for the school to be fully open on Tuesday 16th October (if everything goes to plan!)

There have been a number of press reports regarding the closure of our school and others in Newham. Many of these contain inaccuracies. I understand and appreciate how very inconvenient the closure is and I can only assure you, that based on the scale and multiple locations of our infestation of spiders the safest thing for all children and staff was to have them removed. We are not prepared to compromise on our children's well-being and this was not a decision that was made lightly. Our risk assessment also needed to take into account the age of some of our pupils, the childcare provision we have on site (with children as young as 6 months), our Children's Centre which runs numerous baby and toddler sessions and the fact that we have pupils who have underlying medical conditions who could be at greater risk. It was also made after consultation with environmental services experts.

Next Week - Monday 8th October to Friday 12th October

The school is still closed for next week (8th to the 12th October). The work packs teachers created yesterday are now on our website. Each year group has its' own work pack and there is also a whole school project on spiders as we do not want this experience to have a negative long term impact on our children. Particular thanks to support staff who have spent today copying multiple packs for parents to collect next week.

We have also been working with some of our neighbours to try and provide some provision and I am very pleased to tell you that thanks to the very helpful team **at St Mark's Community Centre** we will be able to offer parents and pupils **a Learning Support Drop-in Surgery:** (Monday- Friday from 9am -3pm)

Parents who would like some help and support with some of the work we have set or who have struggled to access the work online can drop in during these hours and staff will be able to support you and your child with work or give you a physical pack of work to take away. There will also be members of the Senior Leadership Team on hand to answer any questions you may have about the closure. Parents **will not** be able to leave their children with staff but will need to stay with their children and take them with you once we have answered any enquiries.

A reduced provision for our children with additional needs

Calverton Primary have kindly offered us the use of a spare classroom next week (8th - 12th October). This obviously holds a maximum of 30 children. Therefore priority for these limited spaces is being given to those pupils who due to their additional needs may find it challenging to access work packs at home. We will be contacting the parents of these children over the weekend with further details.

Additional Children's Centre sessions for EYFS pupils

Our Children's Centre has worked very hard to hold additional sessions at **Pier Road** and **Winsor Primary School** next week. We strongly encourage our nursery and Reception parents to look at the revised programme attached to see which sessions would be appropriate for them to attend with their children.

Little Ellies Childcare

We are hoping to be able to run a restricted service at another nursery in Newham next week. This would be for our full time children from 8am to 6pm and our staff would still be working with your children. However this can only be done with Ofsted approval and we are still currently awaiting the outcome of our application. We will of course update you as soon as we know if this is a possibility.

I appreciate that the arrangements above are very limited and we are still in talks with the Local Authority about finding some further space which is suitable. Should we have more space available, I will be looking to provide more children with access to lessons. Parents will continue to be updated over the weekend should this possibility be available.

We thank you for patience and understanding at this time whilst we are working hard with the Local Authority to ensure that we can open as soon as possible and your child's education can continue as normal.

Senior Leaders will be available all of next week and based at St Marks. We look forward to seeing some of you then. In the meantime, as a school community, if you are in a position to help or support your neighbours please do so. What is always so amazing about our community is how we pull together in a crisis.

Thank you for your ongoing support with this issue.

Yours faithfully,

Sue Ferguson
Headteacher