



Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to edition number 4 of our lockdown newsletter. We hope you managed to safely enjoy some of the beautiful weather we had over the bank holiday and Happy Easter to all our families who celebrated this weekend.



Staffing Changes

Unfortunately we have two members of staff leaving us at the end of this week. Mrs Ellis had previously left a while ago but missed you all so much she came back! Whilst Mrs Mustafa was one of the first people I employed when I took over as Headteacher at EWPS and she has had the pleasure of teaching most children at EWPS at some point as well as being instrumental to our International School development! I know you join me in thanking them for their hard work and wish them well.



As sad as it is to say goodbye, I am pleased to announce that we have appointed experienced permanent members of staff to join our staff team. Mr O'Dowd, many of the children will know as he joined the school just before we closed. In addition Ms Foster will be joining us from the 1st May. We look forward to welcoming them to the EWPS family in person once we reopen.



Shout Outs

We know many of you are reading the 'shout out corner' to your children, so we thought next week we would give children the chance to send us their shout out to share with their classes. If your child would like to do this please send their message to info@ellenwilkinson.newham.sch.uk and we will try to include it!

Take care and stay safe.

Sue Ferguson

Reception National Offer Day!

Dear Parents/Carers,



For many of our Nursery children who will turn 4 years old by 31st August this year, you will have applied for their next stage of education into a school reception. Tomorrow, Thursday 16th April 2020 is the national offer day for this process. You should receive an email after 5pm on this day to notify you of the school your child is being offered a place at for September. In the past there have sometimes been issues with these emails so you can log back in to your original application at <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app> to find out the outcome of your application.

Letters will be sent out to your home address too but these will take a few days longer.

If you are not happy with the offer you receive you will need to contact pupil services directly, details of how to do this will be in the offer email. Vice versa, if you have not applied for a reception place and your child will turn 4 by 31st August 2020, then you also need to get in touch with Newham Pupil Services directly.

For all children allocated a place at Ellen Wilkinson Primary we will be in touch soon to provide you more information about transitions.

UPDATE: Free School Meals – Government Voucher Scheme

We have now registered families who are eligible for the government scheme which provides a £15 voucher per child per week which can be used in some supermarkets. **These are scheduled to be sent out via email on Monday 20th straight from Edenred the suppliers.** We will monitor this closely as we know that many schools across the country have experienced difficulties with this. Please remember that this is not Newham's Eat for Free provision. This is only for families who have applied and have confirmed eligibility from the Local Authority.

PLEASE NOTE: We are starting to be sent details by the Local Authority of additional families who have applied and are now eligible which we are adding to the list. If your family's circumstances has changed we would strongly suggest you apply if you think you may be eligible.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)



To apply please follow the link: <https://www.newham.gov.uk/Pages/Services/Free-school-meals.aspx>

Useful websites

Every week we will share a website that a member of staff has found that you might want to look at with your child. This week's contribution comes from Ms Feeney.

The Maths Factor

<https://www.themathsfactor.com>

This website is currently free to use due to the school closures. It provides online Maths learning for children aged 4-11 through video tutorials, practice and games.



Ideas for the Easter Holidays

We hoped you enjoyed trying some of our Easter Holiday ideas. Children of key workers who have been accessing school based provision also tried some out and even did an Easter Hunt wearing their bonnets! Examples of their hard work are below!



Accessing Support (Education)

We are aware that there may be aspects your child is covering that you wish to have additional support on. Therefore during the current closure you can email any questions you have to the teachers in your child's year group and a member of teaching staff in your child's year group will then respond to you and give you advice.

This email support facility will be available between 9 am - 12 and 1pm - 3pm Monday to Friday during term time.

Each year group has its own email so please ensure you use the correct one in order that your question goes to the right staff. The email addresses are simply:

yeargroup@ellenwilkinson.newham.sch.uk

So Reception would use reception@ellenwilkinson.newham.sch.uk

Year 1 would use year1@ellenwilkinson.newham.sch.uk and so on.



Welcome to "Shout Out Corner"!



Each week the staff team in different year groups are going to send a 'shout out' to their children to let them know we are still here, and we are still one community. This week's messages come from the teams in year 6 and nursery.

"Just wanted to say hello to Nursery! We are missing you very much but hope you are having fun with your families at home.

Try to read a book every day and practise writing your name when you can. What about some cooking? Mrs Ellis has learnt to bake bread and started growing vegetables whilst she has been at home and Mrs Paul has been spending lots of time with her little boy baking, painting and counting (and eating) chocolate eggs!

Stay safe and we're hoping to see you all soon!"

Ms Paul, Mrs Ellis & the Nursery Team

"Hey Year 6! Hope you are all good and enjoying the sunshine where possible. It's not the same without you. We are missing you lots! We hope you are not only working hard to complete your work packs, but are spending some time being active too. Make sure you are helping out the adults out at home and are sharing lovely memories and stories together. Hopefully this is some time you could use to learn to make or bake something new as a family. "

Mr Hanif, Miss Khan, Miss Anderson and the Year 6 team

"Hi Year 6,

I'm sitting in front of my laptop, and wishing I was standing in front of you instead! I'm missing your bright smiles, hard work and funny comments. This is the time where our real EWPS spirit and values come through. You've got this lovely people! I hope you're all keeping your minds (school work/learning new skills), bodies (approved exercise) and your emotions (spending time with your family and doing fun things) in tip top condition. Missing you VERY much!"

Miss Khan



Grass Head Man

You will need:

- Knee highs and pop socks
- **Grass seeds** chives, rye or alfalfa seeds also work well.
- **Sawdust or potting mix** for stuffing. Or just some soil from your garden.
- **Small yoghurt pot.**
- **Decorations.** Googly eyes and fabric scraps for the heads, coloured paper for the bodies, pipe-cleaners for spectacles... get creative :-)
- **Water-proof glue.** For sticking on the eyes, lips, etc.



Useful Links:

Family Support:

We are here to offer friendly advice and available by phone from 9 – 3pm

Please contact us on **07870365797/07392196124**.

Please find a link below, which allows extremely vulnerable families to register on the gov.uk, allowing them to be contacted if they need support, including delivery of essentials.

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable>

If you have some money you are able to donate, this is towards supporting our most vulnerable families in Newham!!!

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/NewhamCovid19>

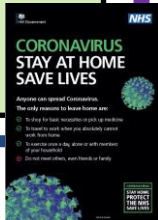
Keep safe and share!!

Sources of information about COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Looking for current information about COVID-19? You can find all the latest Public Health England advice on our website. Click on the parent tab at the top and it will be the first one on the list.

REMEMBER:

The single most important action we can all take, in fighting coronavirus, is to stay at home in order to protect the NHS and save lives.



Talking to your child about COVID-19

This is a link to a free book explaining Covid-19 and social distancing in a child friendly manner. We have looked at it and with so many children who may be feeling worried and anxious right now, this could help alleviate some of their fears.

<https://www.flipsnack.com/CSKid/sBooks/what-s-going-on.html>

Updated handwashing advice

It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.

The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>



The e-Bug project is led by Public Health England and has a dedicated webpage for learning resources on hand washing and respiratory hygiene. <https://e-bug.eu/>

Mental Health

This is a really challenging time for all of us and more than ever it's important that we look after our mental health. As part of their 'Every Mind Matters' campaign, the NHS have produced some helpful tips to support mental health and well-being during this challenging time.

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips/>

Need to reach out?

Sometimes you may just need to reach out. If you do, at any point, feel you are struggling, can't cope and need some support, there are organisations and charities that can help:

- **Mind:** <https://www.mind.org.uk> – mental health charity
- **The Samaritans:** [samaritans.org](https://www.samaritans.org) – 24hr support
- Call free on 116 123
- **CALM :** Campaign Against Living Miserably, for people in the UK who are down or have hit a wall for any reason. Call 0800 58 58 58 (daily, 5pm to

