



Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to edition number 5 of our lockdown newsletter.



You will see that this week you are getting two different letters. This one is about practical arrangements and information. The other is a home learning tips guide. We hope that going forward this will make it easier to find what you need.

EWPS approach to home learning

- Every family situation and need is different – do what you can!
- It is important that your child accesses some learning every day but when and how needs to work for your family!
- If you have a way that works for you – stick with it just make sure some learning takes place!

To support this we have uploaded further work onto our website (**IF** you need it!) – www.ellenwilkinson.newham.sch.uk

Before we closed we also distributed English and Maths work books for every child in years 1 to 6 and work packs for Reception & Nursery this is linked to the expectations for the year group (and answers are in the back – just don't tell your children!) If you did not collect your child's please contact us by email so we can arrange to get them to you. If you want more work or harder or easier work please let us know.

Remember do what you can but the well-being of your child and the whole family is the most important! Put this first! Take care and stay safe. **Sue Ferguson**

Why there are no EWPS virtual lessons?

We have chosen not to do virtual live lessons at this time for the following reasons:

- Some of our families don't have devices or connectivity to do this.
- Even if a device is available we are aware there may be several children needing to use it in addition to parents working from home!
- We do not want to create additional complications of children having to be online at set times as we realize every family situation is very different.
- We are signposting families to other virtual options if they want this.





Keeping In Contact – Phone calls

We have been trying to keep contact with families by phone on a regular basis. Thank you for the overwhelmingly positive feedback from this. However we realise that you (and your child) would appreciate if this was someone that you know well.

Therefore from next week we will be trying to do a care call by your child's teacher to you and your child every week. This is so that every family gets to have a 1:1 conversation (rather than just a general hello which is on Zoom).

This is a care call NOT a check up on learning!

This is to make sure we stay connected with our families, for us to signpost you to other support if you ask for it and to let you know you are not alone!

If you or your child want some help with home learning please let their teacher know when they call. We can offer suggestions but every family circumstance is different – do what works for you!

If you do not want to receive the class teacher calls please email us at:

info@ellenwilkinson.newham.sch.uk

Keeping In Contact - Zoom

We will be emailing all parents with children in years 1 to 6 on Friday with a Zoom invite for next week. This will be a chance for your child to join a Zoom chat with their teacher and classmates. Please note this is not an online lesson! This is for children's well-being so they can speak to and see each other and their teacher. We are hoping to do this once a week. Guidance about online safety will be sent out with your invite!



How to apply for Free School Meals

If your family's circumstances have 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>

FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS UPDATE

The first set of these were sent to some eligible parents on Monday and other eligible families should get them on Friday.

We understand there was a problem with Asda sometimes accepting them but I have spoken to Asda Head Office (& they spoke to the manager). We can confirm they do accept vouchers and if there is ever a problem again ask for customer services or the manager!

Eligible families please look for an email from Edenred – it may be in your junk or spam folder! If you get stuck give us a call and we will try to help.





Welcome to "Shout Out Corner"!

This week's messages come from some of the children and from me!

"I know it's hard being apart but remember we are never really alone."
Shanaz (year 6)

"Times may be rough right now and we really miss each other but eventually this will all end and we will be together again."
Ieva (year 6)

"Hi, 'shout out' message from Adyaan Khan, Year 2, Starfish Class:
"Hi everybody, I'm really missing school and hope to see everyone very soon. I've been doing a lot of arts and craft and baking which has been so much fun. I can't wait to be back at school! Stay safe Friends :)"

"It may be hard but I want you to remember we are in this together."
Miley (year 2)

I know this is a really strange and different time for everyone, but please know we are all still part of the EWPS family even if we can't be in the same place at the moment. We miss you all very much but it is important that everyone is kept as safe as possible. Remember to try and do a bit of school work each day but the most important things is to look after yourself and your families! Stay strong, stay kind and we will be back together.

Thinking of you all every day. Mrs Ferguson x

This is a worrying and stressful time for everyone, and each family has unique challenges. Make sure family well-being comes first. To help get ideas on how to do this visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>



Covid 19 advice for parents when child is unwell or injured

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has produced the advice for parents during coronavirus - what to do if your child is unwell or injured. We have attached it for your information





Upcycling and recycling

Looking for ideas to keep you busy at home? Here are some suggestions. We decided to recycle some of our items and did some junk modelling. You can give it a go too!! Please take photos and share on our Facebook page or email to us childrens.centre@ellenwilkinson.sch.uk



- Provide your child with some random items that you have collected, made sure to clean and rinse out containers that had food or drink in it.
- Offer different items that will help your child to attach their pieces together.
- Always supervise when using scissors.



While they are making talk to them about what they are using, and what they are making. It's a great opportunity to build their language, develop their physical skills and build on their self confidence. You can see here that a container for toys was created, she had made a lid at the top and has since filled it with her toys, and the tubes at the sides now hold pencils.

It is important that we all take responsibility for our environment. **Recycling** is a **good** place to start because we are using old and waste products which are of no use and then changing them into something new. Since we are saving resources and are sending less rubbish to landfills, it helps in reducing air and water pollution. Teach your children the three R's:

- **Reduce** - reduce the number of things you buy and use, and you will have less to throw away
- **Reuse** - keep using the same things as many times as you can
- **Recycle** - find new ways to use old things

Useful Links:

Recycling in Newham: <https://www.newham.gov.uk/Pages/Services/Recycling-household-collections.aspx>

Make musical instruments from junk: <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/support-for-parents/things-to-do-with-your-child/musical-mayhem/>

Top tips to get kids recycling: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/how-to-get-kids-to-recycle?collection=recycling-craft-idea>

Recycling craft ideas: <https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/recycling-crafts>