



Friday 15th January 2021

Update 15th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all the support given to the school over the past two weeks and we hope you are all well and keeping safe. The government advice remains:

The single most important action we can all take is to stay at home.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Please read the government guidance carefully; it explains what you can and cannot do during the national lockdown. It is the law. Parents must not organise social play dates or sleep-overs for the children. Whilst childcare bubbles are allowed, you must not meet socially with your childcare bubble. For further guidance on support/childcare bubble please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-support-bubble-with-another-household#who-can-make-a-support-bubble>.

Remote Learning

Thank you for being patient whilst the school has been discussing how to develop the remote learning further. A letter regarding the remote learning at St. Theresa's will be sent to all parents on Monday.

As always, if you are struggling with Seesaw, or home-learning in general, for whatever reason, please either contact your child's class teacher via the Seesaw app, or email/phone the school office (email: office@sttheresas.barnetmail.net tel: 020 8346 8826).

Critical Workers

The government has updated its advice to include "parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can". Therefore, the school would like to remind the critical worker parents that your children should only be using the school provision on the days you are working or if there is no adult at home who can look after them.

Critical worker and vulnerable children attending school during the closure

The number of critical worker and vulnerable children attending school is increasing and therefore we need to rearrange the bubbles to ensure, as far as possible, the bubbles remain consistent in size. From Monday 18th January, the Reception and Year 1 children will be one bubble and will continue to use the Y1 classroom. The Y2 and Y3 pupils will now become their own bubble and will use the Y2 classroom. Y4, Y5 and Y6 will be another bubble and will continue to use the Y5 classroom.

A reminder to all the parents who are currently sending their children into school during the lockdown to please ensure your child has warm clothing; the windows are left open in the classrooms during the day to help ventilate the room - and it can feel cold.



Children Eligible for Free School Meals

This week, the school catering company provided the food parcels for those families whose children are eligible for free school meals. We have now also had confirmation that the national supermarket voucher scheme is going to be re-introduced. Families who have children eligible for free school meals will be entitled to receive a £15 supermarket voucher per child per week.

We will be contacting those eligible families regarding the supermarket vouchers, separate to this letter and you should receive the vouchers next week.

Your child may be able entitled to free school meals (and therefore the supermarket vouchers) if you are in receipt of 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)

If you think that your child may be eligible for free school meals (and therefore the supermarket vouchers) please do get in touch with the school office (tel: 020 8346 8826 or email: office@sttheresas.barnetmail.net) and we can forward your details to Barnet. Please note that simply making the application does not guarantee the council will authorise it.

Universal Infant Free School Lunches

All children in the infants (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) are entitled to a free school lunch. **This is different to the eligibility for the supermarket vouchers.**

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and is currently attending school as either a critical worker, or vulnerable, child, the school catering company will be able to deliver a packed lunch to school for them, from Monday, should you wish (sandwich choice will be either tuna or cheese). You do not need to notify the school if you wish to take up this offer; we will count the packed lunches needed every morning and ask the children for their preferred sandwich choice.

Y1 Phonic Screening/Y2 SATs/Y4 Multiplication Check/Y6 SATs

The 2021 national curriculum assessments, including the Y1 phonic screening check, the Y2 tests, the Y4 multiplication check and the Y6 tests have all been cancelled for this year.



East Finchley Neighbourhood Support's Free Food Service

East Finchley Neighbourhood Support have teamed up with a local chef – Giuseppe Sollo - and with support from Grange Big Local and CommUNITY Barnet have launched a free food service, giving out free, healthy, home-made meals to anyone in the area who needs some extra help at the moment. There is no referral needed and no questions asked. All the meals are given out pre-cooked and chilled, having been freshly prepared the day before. The meals need heating up and you will be given clear instruction on how to store and reheat the meals, plus a list of ingredients and allergens.

Collection Point: Phoenix Cinema, 52 High Road, London N2 9PJ

Collection Times: 10.30am – 12.30pm every Tuesday

- One meal per person is provided i.e. you can collect one meal for each person in your household or bubble
- Available to the residents of N2 and immediate surrounds (no referral needed)
- Please bring a bag to carry the food back home
(more info: EFNSfoodproject@gmail.com)

Green Doctors

If you are struggling to pay your energy bills, *Green Doctors* are a charity who can help you to save money by helping you to:

- switch energy providers
- access pre-payment meter support
- apply for grants for energy or water debt
- get additional wellbeing support
- reduce your electricity bill by £140 for winter 2020-2021 through the Warm Home Discount Scheme.

Visit greendoctors-london.org or call 0300 365 3005 for further information

School communication with parents

Please remember that all letters from the school are posted onto the school website on the *Newsletters* page (<https://www.st-theresas.barnet.sch.uk/calendar/newsletters/>).

Do contact me if you have any further questions – and keep yourselves safe.

Thank you,

Barbara Costa

Barbara Costa
Executive Headteacher