



Friday 22nd January 2021

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Dear Parents,

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

On Monday, parents were sent the updated information regarding remote learning and we thank you for the feedback we have received. I am sure you will appreciate the challenge the staff face balancing the remote provision with the face-to-face teaching in school. The school also understands, that home-learning can be extremely challenging for parents and we will continue to adapt our provision to ensure it is as effective as it can possibly be.

Learners of the Week



Reception	Nikolay: for trying really hard on Seesaw. He has been following all the instructions and has really improved his writing.
Year 1	Kevin: for his enthusiasm and determination when completing his tasks at home and doing extra learning all the time.
Year 2	Francesco: for continually striving for excellence and for his diligence in all of the subjects.
Year 3	Ola: For her fantastic artwork on the Ancient and Modern Olympics.
Year 4	Sebastian: for his wonderful report writing
Year 5	Evie: for creating an interesting, persuasive and well-structured travel brochure for those wishing to explore Mars.
Year 6	Maja C: because her enthusiasm for learning and her sunny personality still reaches Mrs Dias every day, even across the barriers of remote learning!

Zoom

By the time this newsletter is published, we will have had our first Zoom sessions with the children. Myself and Mr Troy will continue to host Zoom meetings with the children (EYFS/KS1 and KS2) on alternate weeks. Next week, the class teachers will be starting their class Zoom



sessions; all meeting login details will be forwarded to parents at least one day in advance of the meeting.

When joining a Zoom session, please follow the link the teacher has uploaded (or copy and paste it into your browser); you will be prompted to type in a name – please type in your child's name. This is to ensure your child is allowed entry into the meeting room.

Children Eligible for Free School Meals

Families who have children eligible for free school meals should have received their supermarket vouchers earlier this week. Please check your inboxes for an email from WONDE. The school has organised for those families to receive all their vouchers (until February half-term) in one go. Therefore, you should have received £60 worth of vouchers - per child - for a period of four weeks beginning Monday 18th January. The funding is £15 per week. If your child is entitled to free school meals, but you have not received your vouchers, please contact the school office.

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 is able to deliver a packed lunch to school for them, should you wish (sandwich choice is 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.



School loaned Devices (laptops/iPads)

The school has a set number of devices (iPads/laptops) that can be loaned to families who are struggling with remote learning. Please contact us if you think this is something you would like help with. We would much prefer the children to access the remote learning from an iPad or laptop rather than using a mobile phone.

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.

Free Online Spring Term 2021 Activities

Barnet is offering a programme of free online activities for children and young people; please click the following link for further information.

<https://www.st-theresas.barnet.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Free-Online-Activities-Spring-Term-2021.pdf>

Big Energy Saving Week

Citizens Advice Barnet is holding a Zoom session for Big Energy Saving Week on Tuesday 26th January 2pm-4pm. The purpose of this zoom session is to inform the local community about what steps they can take to save on their energy bills and what help they can get to reduce their bills. If anyone is interested in joining the session they will need to email us at hub@barnetcab.org.uk.

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