



Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Update 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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>.

#### **Schools Re-opening**

On Wednesday, the Government announced that it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half-term and instead hopes it will be safe to commence the re-opening of schools and colleges from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity. Education settings, as well as students, parents and carers will be given at least two weeks' notice to prepare for a return to face-to-face education; we will update parents when we have further information.

#### **Children's Mental Health Week**

Next week (week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> February) is Children's Mental Health Week. The week, set up by the children's mental health charity Place2Be, shines a spotlight on the importance of children's and young people's mental health. This year's theme is "Express Yourself". Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. This could be through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities that make you feel good.

Yesterday, the theme was introduced to the pupils in Key Stage 2 and on Monday I will be talking to the infants about how we can express ourselves in creative ways. Every day next week the children will be asked to "express themselves" either through art or music etc. On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February we will have a *Dress to Express Day*! All pupils are invited to dress in clothes and colours that express their feelings; we would really like to see photos of the children uploaded onto Seesaw next Friday in their chosen outfits, with an explanation of why they chose those particular colours or items. Place2Be have created a leaflet with some tips for parents to support their children next week; it can be found on their website. <https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/children-s-mental-health-week/>

#### **Zoom**

By the time parents receive this newsletter, most pupils will have had their class zoom sessions with their teacher; thank you to all the children who attended and we hope you enjoyed them. Can we please remind parents to discuss the Code of Conduct (which can be found here:


<https://www.st-theresas.barnet.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Provision-of-Remote-Education-at-St.-Therasas-January-2021.pdf>) with their children; it must be adhered to during any Zoom session.



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. If the member of staff does not recognise the child's name, they will not be allowed access to the session.

Please note, in line with the Code of Conduct, we will not be making the recordings of the Zoom sessions available to the pupils who did not attend.

### Remote Learning

<i>Learners of the Week</i>	
	
Reception	<b>Lili:</b> because of her effort and attitude towards learning.
Year 1	<b>Theo:</b> for having a go at writing a superhero story and for using great sentence openers and remembering capital letters and full stops.
Year 2	<b>Annaliese:</b> for being an enthusiastic and resilient learner. She has produced a number of well thought out, and well written Literacy pieces.
Year 3	<b>Mya B:</b> for strengthening her Maths concepts by completing the Maths activities each day. She is putting lots of effort into her work.
Year 4	<b>Nathan:</b> for his fantastic literacy instructions this week.
Year 5	<b>Fatima:</b> for the enthusiasm and perseverance she shows towards her remote learning. She impresses Miss Georgious every day!
Year 6	<b>Carmen:</b> for an excellent autobiography this week, but also for the effort she puts into all of her learning.

### Children Eligible for Free School Meals

Families who have children eligible for free school meals are entitled to supermarket vouchers worth £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 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](mailto: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.

### **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>

### **School communication with parents**

By now, all parents should have received a phone call from their child's class teacher. From next week, members of the support staff will also be phoning parents; these phone calls are to see how families are getting on during the lockdown and if there is anything the school can do to support you further.

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