



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Update 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents,

The Prime Minister's televised statement on Monday evening informed us of another national lockdown that will last until February half term at least; this is certainly not what any of us wanted. This therefore means that our current plans, originally intended for only two weeks, now need to be extended to six weeks. Therefore, the school only remains open to the children of critical workers and the children defined as vulnerable.

The government has issued full *National Lockdown - Stay at Home* guidance which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

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

### Critical Worker Children

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

The school would also like to remind the critical worker parents that your children should only be using the school provision on the days you are working.

### Remote Learning

Thank you to all the parents and children who have been engaging so enthusiastically on Seesaw this week. Thank you also to the parents who have provided feedback and suggestions on how the school can improve the remote learning provision; please be reassured that **all your comments have been taken on board and we are currently discussing how we can develop the remote learning further**; we ask that parents bear with us and we will be in contact again to provide further details.

If, in the meantime, 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](mailto:office@sttheresas.barnetmail.net) tel: 020 8346 8826).

### Children Eligible for Free School Meals

During the Spring lockdown last year, the government funded a national supermarket voucher scheme for children eligible for free school meals. We did originally believe that we could continue to offer these vouchers but the government has not yet announced that it will be funding a similar scheme for this lockdown. In the absence of supermarket vouchers, the school catering company will be providing food parcels for those families whose children are



eligible for free school meals. We expect the parcels to be delivered next week; once they have arrived we will be contacting those families to come and collect them.

### **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](mailto: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](http://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