



West Ham Church Primary School

With God all things are possible

Newsletter 7, 27th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

My team and I have spoken to many of you over the last few days - we know how important it is to maintain communication between school and home if we are to work together through these challenging times. If you have any worries or concerns about your child in school - we are here to help. Please do not hesitate to telephone to speak to your class teacher, in the first instance. Mrs. Nesbitt, our Family Worker, is also available to chat through any issues and offer support.

This week, Squirrels class were asked to self-isolate due to a confirmed case of coronavirus. We are sorry this can sometimes cause distress and inconvenience. We hope you appreciate we have to follow the guidance we are given by the Department of Education and Public Health England in the interests of keeping everyone as safe as possible.

The pandemic has had a huge impact on our community with some families losing loved ones and financial stability. Many of us are anxious and fretful and our children feel this too. We are indebted to our Art Therapist, Mrs. Coles, who works in school one day a week children providing thera-

peutic support.

Our cover teacher, Mr. Dickey, has been working hard to ensure the Squirrels class receive high quality learning. Fortunately, Squirrels know Mr Dickey quite well already. He has been an absolute star - delivering packs of work to families' homes and providing a live-streamed storytime for the children at the end of the 'school day'. Our Assistant Headteacher and Early Reading Lead, Miss Holroyde, is providing a daily live-streamed phonics session - it was a delight to pop into the session this morning and see their happy faces. Thank you parents for engaging with and supporting your children with remote learning. It is vitally important they continue to learn to read whether in home or at school. All children have been given access to Big Cat ebooks - we are doing our best so children are not disadvantaged by being out of school again.

Mrs. Rogers contacts families to offer support with learning online. We try to have daily telephone contact with parents of children who are self-isolating at home. Together we can do this.

Warm regards,

Mrs James, Headteacher

Coronavirus

If your child is displaying symptoms of coronavirus
— cough, fever, loss of smell/taste —
please do not send them into school

Keep 2m
socially
distanced at
all times
please



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A warm welcome to Simon Nicholls, Vicar at West Ham Church

After the children had gone home, I had the pleasure of showing Simon around the school yesterday—a very socially distanced tour! He has been settling in well at West Ham Church and is really looking forward to meeting the children when it is safe to do so. Meantime, he will be leading a weekly assembly and collective worship starting in January. We warmly welcome him into our team.

Simon was so impressed with the school and enthusiastic about the work we can do together. We talked about the core Christian values the school has adopted this year—Wonder, Harmony, Compassion and Strength—and our vision. We both share a deeply held respect for the diverse community the school and church serve - something to celebrate and value.

The Lighthouse Project will be running a pop-up food

distribution point at West Ham Church on **Wednesdays from 12 - 2pm.**

Here they will be providing hot food as well as a food parcel to anyone in need in the community through a contactless take-away service. Need help or know someone who does?

Email help@hackney.church, call the helpline 44 (0) 7399 844 226 or come on down and meet the friendly team who will be able to help you out.

Wednesdays 12:00 - 2:00 PM ,
West Ham Church, E15 3HU

Questions and Answers

If you have a question, please email or telephone. Some questions asked this week:

Why did you close Squirrels class and not the whole bubble this week?

We were instructed to send home children and staff who had come into **close contact** with the confirmed case. The adult had only come into contact with children in Squirrels class and adults within that class.

I know a child who had symptoms, so why didn't you close his class?

There are many seasonal cold and cough viruses going around as well as the coronavirus. We are only allowed to 'close' a class or bubble when we receive confirmation of a positive test result for coronavirus. For example, many staff have been poorly over the term, but tests show not through coronavirus.

Why did you send the text out on Monday morning and not beforehand?

We will always act swiftly to keep you informed. We will let you know as soon as we know.

Is the school safe?

We follow all the mitigating controls in our risk assessment to keep school as safe as it can be for children, parents and staff. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspected the school and were very happy with everything we are doing in this regard. He said the single best thing to do is to keep 2 metres distanced from people at all times.

Why should I send my child into school?

We all want the best for our children. Further absence from school will affect their long term life outcomes, their well-being and possibly their mental health. Parents have a legal duty to ensure children are back in school. We are doing our very utmost to keep them as safe as possible so they can learn, have fun, exercise, socialise with friends and fill in gaps in education for a better future.



Christmas at WHCS

We are excited to make this as special as possible for the children.

Christmas Week 14th—18th December

Monday: Christmas activities

Tuesday: Christmas activities

Wednesday: Christmas jumper day, **Christmas Lunch** and making Christingles

Thursday: an **Christingle Service** in Class

Thursday pm **Christmas Parties** (come to school in partywear)

Friday: Games morning, **children go home 1:00-1:30pm**

Our Nativity ~ will be filmed this year and posted online (consent forms coming out today)

Christmas Cards ~ children can post in their class post box by Tuesday 15th Dec and they will be delivered on Friday 18th Dec

Christmas gifts ~ if you wish to show your appreciation for the teachers and staff at school, we are very grateful, but please do not feel any pressure to do so. Many thanks!

Father Christmas ~ yes, good old Father Christmas will be visiting WHCS, albeit online or socially distanced, and will have something special for each child.

