



# West Ham Church School

*With God all things are possible*

WHCS Newsletter 10  
Spring 1, Week 2  
Monday 11th January

**The Governors and staff at  
West Ham Church School  
would like to wish all our families  
good health and happiness in 2021**

Please email any one of the team if you need our help:

[info@westham.newham.sch.uk](mailto:info@westham.newham.sch.uk)

Telephone: 0208 534 3904

## Senior Leadership Team

Mrs. James ~ Headteacher  
Mrs. Lord-Attivor ~ Deputy  
Headteacher  
Miss Holroyde ~ Assistant  
Headteacher  
Mrs. Forster ~ School Business  
Manager  
Miss Shaw ~ Senior Teacher

## Our Vision Statement

Our vision is to enable children, with God's guidance,  
To know and appreciate the **wonder** of God's creation  
To live in **harmony** embracing differences,  
To always act with **compassion** inspired by the example of  
Jesus,  
And to have the **strength** to follow their dreams and achieve  
their goals

**Wonder ~ Harmony ~ Compassion ~ Strength**

Our Value this half term is

***Kindness***

All families are invited to join us  
every morning at 9:10am for  
Collective Worship

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope this newsletter finds you safe and well. We know many of our families are experiencing huge challenges at the moment including home schooling. We would prefer if circumstances allowed us to teach face-to-face. However, the high level of coronavirus in the local community has made schools vectors for transmission of the virus. If we can reduce the number of close contacts by keeping the numbers of children in school to a minimum, it is hoped the rate of infection will decrease in Newham.

We remain open for critical worker and vulnerable children and welcomed 20-25 children in school last week.

We urge parents to only send children into school if there is no-one at home able to oversee their care.

Decisions are taken on a case by case basis in regards to provision for vulnerable children.

Of course, nothing will ever replace the buzz and interaction of classroom learning, but we are working tirelessly to ensure that your children have the best possible access to learning opportunities. Despite the challenges faced, our provision of a mix of live sessions and other remote learning possibilities has been extremely successful. We are hoping to have even greater expectations once all are able to engage through appropriate technology. The curriculum offer will continue to be varied, engaging and rich and we expect all children to be part of the learning experience.

Kindly note, it is a legal requirement that your child attends the lessons and engages with their remote learning. We will be tracking attendance online and we will be in touch, if absence is an issue, in order to support your child to get online and be increasingly engaged. Please also be reminded to expect a fortnightly call from a member of staff which will be a wellbeing check for all. It is just a chance for us to speak to you and your child individually and to 'check in' that everything is ok and, if it is not ok, see if there is anything we can do to help.

Yours respectfully,

Mrs. James, Headteacher



I have a **GROWTH MINDSET.**

I am in charge of how smart I am because

I can **GROW** my **BRAIN**

like a muscle by learning hard things.

I can achieve

**ANYTHING**

with **EFFORT** and

**RIGHT STRATEGIES.**

And even if I fail or make a mistake,

it is a **GREAT** thing, because

I can **LEARN** from them and

**I GET BETTER!**

Big Life Journal  
[www.biglifejournal.com](http://www.biglifejournal.com)

## Food parcels

For families eligible for Free School Meals, our caterers, Juniper, are providing food parcels to be collected from the school. Please speak to Mrs. Carter with your queries.



## Welcome ~ New staff

Mrs. Sutherland will be working as part of our Inclusion team and has been appointed as our School Home Support Practitioner.

She is available to help children attend school (including learning at home) and to support families overcome barriers to learning.

A warm welcome to the team!

**Parenting is hard, but having a growth mindset can help...** Research shows that parents can have a powerful impact on their children's mindsets. The language you use and the actions you take show your children about what you expect. Giving process praise, talking about the brain, accepting mistakes as learning opportunities, and understanding the role of emotions in learning are all practices you can begin today.

### Say This, Not That

The way we praise our children can have a profound impact on their mindset. Research on praise and mindsets shows that when we praise children for being smart, it promotes a fixed mindset. It sends a message that their accomplishments are trait-based, and tied to something innate. In contrast, praising kids for working hard promotes a growth mindset. It sends a message that the child's effort is what led them to success. Want more tips on what to say, and what not to say, when praising your kids? Say This, Not That! Check it out: [www.mindsetworks.com/parents/growth-mindset-parenting](http://www.mindsetworks.com/parents/growth-mindset-parenting)



## Top Tips

To engage children in learning at home:

- ★ Get up at the usual time for school
- ★ Get dressed into school uniform
- ★ Stick to the timetable
- ★ Have a quiet place for your child to study
- ★ Take breaks as directed and encourage your child to be physically active during this time
- ★ Give plenty of praise and rewards
- ★ Stay hydrated
- ★ Ask them why it's important to learn & discuss
- ★ Be kind - look after yourself too

## Activities to keep children entertained at home

Play-Doh is an old favourite that can keep children entertained for hours. Whether they want to make their own dinosaur, elephant, car or castle, the possibilities are endless. If you haven't got any Play-Doh it's pretty simple to make your own. All you need is:

- 2 cups of plain flour
- 1 cup of salt
- 1 tablespoon of oil
- half to 1 cup of cold water
- 2 drops of liquid food colouring



Mix the flour and salt then add the water, oil and food colouring. Knead the mixture well, adding a little more flour if the consistency is too wet.

## Cooking and dining together

Children love to help their parents prepare the family meal and time spent sharing a meal at the table is time invested in family relationships. Teach them how to wash, peel and prepare vegetables or bake a cake. (Do take care to supervise them at all times, of course.)

For some recipe ideas, see:

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/top-5-easy-bakes-kids>

## Question and Answers

### What are you doing to support learning at home?

- Children in the Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 have physical packs of work plus teachers online supporting and teaching;
- Early Years children will also receive a Keepmi box filled with a craft activity each week;
- Reception, Year 1, 2 and 3 have a daily Storytime phonics session taught by Miss Holroyde, our Early Reading Lead teacher;
- Year 3,4,5, & 6 have online lessons delivered by their teachers throughout the day;
- Children in Year 3 and 4 will receive a Storytime magazine once a month which will be used as a resource for English lessons;
- School subscriptions give children access to Big Cat ebooks, Educationcity, Times Table Rockstars and First News
- And we are providing chromebooks, data hubs and data SIM cards (there is a limited supply, but we are trying to acquire more).

### When will children come back to school?

At the time of writing, it is the expectation that primary schools in England will be fully open on 22nd February 2021. However, we understand this is subject to a review by the government.

### Why are you providing food parcels and not vouchers for families eligible for free school meals?

We are following the government's guidance.

### Does my child have to attend remote learning?

Yes, it is a legal requirement that they do. We are here to support you.