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6<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## Summer Term Letter 2

Dear parents/carers,

We hope you and your family remain safe and well. We are missing the children very much and will have a special message for them at the end of the week.

### Google Classroom

I would like to congratulate all the parents who ensure that their child is signing on to Google Classroom and completing the work set by the teachers each day. I know some of you have had some technical difficulties, but hopefully you will overcome those barriers and be online soon.

**Please contact me if you are having trouble accessing or completing this work due to the lack of appropriate devices or any internet issues.**

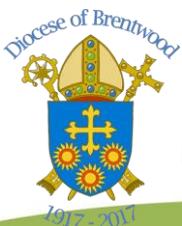
### Internet Safety

As your children are on the computer more on more each day to complete school work and stay in touch with family and friends, it is more important now than ever that you are aware of what your child is doing online.

It's really important to help your child understand how to livestream and use video apps safely and make sure they're speaking to people they know already. [Net Aware has advice on livestreaming](#), including how to keep children safe on popular online apps such as [Zoom](#), [HouseParty](#) and [WhatsApp](#).

### Talking to your child about Coronavirus

We are living in very different and uncertain times. While it's a great opportunity to spend more time at home with our families and do those jobs that we have been putting off for a while, it is also a very stressful time. Your child maybe worried or scared about Coronavirus and what that means for them and their loved ones. It is important that your child feels that they can speak to you about their fears so that they get the facts instead of making up much worse scenarios in their heads. **Please see attached a conversation starter sheet from Young Minds that you might find helpful in starting a conversation with your child.**



Newham London



Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott

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## **Free School Meals**

Just to clarify because there have been many calls and emails about this. All children in Newham receive school meals for free during normal school time. This is provided in one of two ways:

**Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)** - central government funding for all state funded schools to offer free school meals to pupils in reception, year 1, and year 2

**Eat for Free (EFF)** - Newham council provides funding for all state funded schools to offer free school meals to Key Stage 2 aged children (Year 3 - Year 6)

However your child may be **entitled** to free school meals if you get any of the following benefits:

- 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 guarantee 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 believe your child may qualify please apply via the link below make sure you have your National Insurance number to hand before you fill in the form.

<https://www.newham.gov.uk/schools-education/school-meals/6?documentId=45&categoryId=20004>

During the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the Government is temporarily extending free school meals eligibility to include some groups who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF), including:

- children of Zambrano carers
- children of families with no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- children of families receiving support under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are also subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction
- These groups are also subject to a maximum household earnings threshold of £7,400 per annum.



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The Government is also temporarily extending free school meal eligibility to children of a subset of failed asylum seekers supported under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. This group is not subject to any maximum household earnings threshold. This extension is temporarily in place due to the current unique circumstances. It covers both children who are attending school and children who are at home.

The Department for Education guidance is that schools are expected to continue to provide support to those pupils entitled to free school meals who are not attending school, either food parcels or vouchers. This does not include universal infant free school meals or Eat for Free for children in key stage two. We have been sending out vouchers via email/text messages to these families. These vouchers are usually sent out every two weeks.

### Victory in Europe (VE) Day

Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. Victory in Europe Day, marks the day towards the end of World War Two when fighting against Nazi Germany came to an end in Europe. There were fantastic celebrations planned to mark this special day, however due to the lockdown we have had to adjust those plans slightly. One of the tasks on Google Classroom this week has been to learn the Dame Vera Lyn song 'We'll Meet Again' which seems very appropriate for this time. Some communities may be having socially distant events where neighbours come together to sing this song in the same way we Clap for Carers each Thursday night. **If your child (or family) takes part in any of these events by singing 'We'll Meet Again' please send up a video so that we can celebrate it and upload it to our school website.**

### Advice and Support for Parents

The school website has an advice and support for parents section with very useful links for coping during this difficult time please have a look.

<https://st-francis.newham.sch.uk/parents-carers/advice-and-support/>

I pray that you and your family continue to stay safe.

Kind regards,

N Scott  
Head Teacher



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