



LITTLE ILFORD SCHOOL

COURAGE • COMMITMENT • COMPASSION

Rectory Road, London E12 6JB

Tel. 0208 478 8024 | info@littleilford.org | www.littleilford.newham.sch.uk

15th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's finally time to say goodbye. I will be retiring as headteacher next Tuesday after almost nine years of service here. I would like to thank you all so much for your support; it has been a real pleasure being responsible for the students in this wonderful community. Thanks for all the good wishes that I have received - they mean a lot as I enter the next chapter of my life.

Andrew Finn, our new headteacher, started at Little Ilford last week so that we could arrange a smooth handover. Andrew taught at Brampton Manor earlier in his career and knows Newham well. I am very impressed with Andrew's quick grasp of the role and am confident that the school is in good hands.

End of Term

Term ends on Tuesday 21.12. 21 at 12.30 pm. All families who are eligible for Free School Meals will be receiving an email and or text next week about free lunch vouchers covering the Christmas holiday period.

Remote Learning

If your child has tested positive for Covid-19 and is self-isolating from school, but is well enough to work from home, please remind them to check on Show My Homework or Google Classroom for the appropriate work for each lesson. Sometimes, students will be able to join lessons via a meet link and sometimes they will have tasks to complete at home by themselves. If you need any more information regarding self-isolation, please visit our website [here](#). If they have any issues, please ask them to contact their teacher via Google Classroom.

New Covid Advice

From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

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Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect schools by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to their school. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the [Sunday 12 December press release](#). This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

If they test positive, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

All staff and secondary aged pupils will be given access to a box of 7 LFD tests from school. For primary aged children [LFD test kits are available through the usual routes](#) (community test sites, local pharmacies or online). Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

Finally, it is important to continue regular twice weekly, at-home testing for all students of secondary age and above.

Update on COVID-19 vaccinations

The new Omicron COVID-19 variant is spreading fast. Anyone who is unvaccinated or who hasn't had their booster is at even greater risk from COVID-19 and more serious illness. Vaccines are the best way we can protect ourselves and help keep children and young people in face-to-face education.

People aged 18 years and over, and those aged 16 years and over who are at risk (including health and social care workers) will be offered a booster dose of coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine. I would encourage anyone who is eligible to take up the booster dose.

You can pre-book your booster dose online if it's been 2 months (61 days) since you had your 2nd dose and you are:

- aged 30 and over
- aged 16 and over with a health condition that puts you at high risk from COVID-19
- a frontline health or social care worker

You will be offered appointment dates from 3 months after the date of your 2nd dose.

16 and 17 year olds can get two doses of the COVID vaccine. They can book an appointment through the national booking service and walk in centres are available.

The Health and Social Care Secretary announced on Monday 29 November that young people aged 12 to 15 in England will be offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, following advice from JCVI. Parents of children aged 12-15 that have not yet had their first vaccine can book their child's first vaccination slot over the winter break via the [national booking system](#).

Information on vaccination for 12 to 15 year olds can be found in the [COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 12 to 15 guidance](#).

[Further information on the coronavirus booster vaccination](#) and booking a vaccination can be found on [NHS.UK](#).

Holiday clubs

Newham Council is offering free places at holiday clubs during the Christmas holidays.

These places are primarily for children aged between 4 and 16, who are eligible for or are in



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receipt of free school meals. There is something for everyone! Sport, drama, day trips, cooking, music, arts and crafts, dance and family fun days.

All clubs will also provide a delicious, healthy meal each day. This is an opportunity for children and young people to have fun, learn new things and make new friends! Please use this link www.newham.gov.uk/haf to access up to date information about the programme.

It remains for me to wish you all well. I hope you have a lovely holiday and a happy new year.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Wilson
Headteacher

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Winner of the Christmas Card Competition: Khadiza Begum 7.6