



LITTLE ILFORD SCHOOL

COURAGE • COMMITMENT • COMPASSION

Rectory Road, London E12 6JB

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

20th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well as we end another successful half-term at Little Ilford School.

I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you all for your continued support. The dedication and resilience of our students, teachers, and parents have been truly remarkable, and it's a testament to our collective commitment to providing the best educational experience for our students.

Throughout this half-term, our students have shown tremendous progress in their academic pursuits. We've witnessed their growth not only in terms of knowledge but also in their personal development. Their enthusiasm for learning and engagement in extracurricular activities have been heartening.

Our teaching and support staff have worked tirelessly to ensure a safe and nurturing learning environment for all our students.

As we approach the half-term break, I encourage all students to take some well-deserved rest, recharge, and prepare for the challenges and opportunities that await them in the second half of the term. Finding a balance between study and relaxation is essential, and I hope this break provides a chance for that.

I want to highlight some important dates for your consideration:

- Half-Term Break: 23rd October, 2023, to 27th October, 2023
- Return to School: 30th October, 2023
- Christmas Holiday 22nd December, 2023, to 5th January, 2024

Please visit our school website and communication channels for updates and any changes to the schedule.

Parent Coffee Morning:

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Thank you to all parents who attended the Headteacher's Coffee Morning. We must listen, discuss and communicate as much as possible to ensure we continue to enhance our provision. I will continue to seek opportunities to do this.

For the parents/carers who could not attend, I would like to share some of the points discussed in the meeting.

The main themes discussed were behaviour points, the canteen queue, issues with Satchel One and Educational Visits.

Behaviour points:

Our data shows approximately 58% of students have not received one behaviour point and, therefore, no detention. 25% have received one behaviour point and one detention. 6% have received two behaviour points and 2 detentions. I understand that there have been some concerns, and it is vital for you to discuss them with us so we can support and adapt. However, we have seen significant improvements in many areas of behaviour and want to continue working with you to improve this positive trend.

Canteen queues:

During the first week of term, queuing was an issue. However, no students missed their lunch. Since then, we have been operating a staggered lunch queue, which has solved this issue. I would be more than happy to arrange for parents to come and observe our lunch queue to see the time it takes for students to be served. Don't hesitate to contact me directly if you would like to do so.

Issues with Satchel:

We continue to drive considerable information through Satchel, and if you are experiencing any issues, please contact us or drop by the school office. I have also reminded staff that all homework should be recorded there so you can support this.

Educational Visits:

We provide a wide range of opportunities for students to make off-site visits. We are looking to map these this year so you can better understand our provision.

I will arrange another Coffee Morning next term. We will also run a survey to gain more feedback from our community.

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Hardship Fund:

We recognise the additional challenges facing families, so I want to draw your attention to our Hardship Fund. Little Ilford School Hardship Fund is aimed to help students who have financial difficulties in paying for things such as:

- All items related to school uniform/PE kit.
- Materials or equipment needed to study (e.g. subject revision booklets).
- Emergency cost of travel or cost to attend work experience placement.
- Educational visits organised by Little Ilford School.

If you would like to apply, please visit the school website for more details and the application form: <https://www.littleilford.newham.sch.uk/parents-students-parents/parents/hardship-grant-application>

Newham Holiday Activities:

Are you a SEND young person aged 0-25?
Do you live, work or study in Newham?

We are inviting you to our Gr8 Day 2 Play event on October 28 at Newham Leisure Centre. We will have sensory activities, a VR experience, trampolining, swimming and various sports and leisure opportunities. To support the work on the Council's All Age Autism Strategy, we will also have an Autism focus at this event, but all SEND young people, their parents, carers, and siblings are welcome.

To register for activities, please access the flyer [link](#) and the QR code or link.
If you have any questions, please contact - alana.lukens@newham.gov.uk

Behind the Camera - free half term course - Click [link](#)

London Stadium Learning offers a free Half Term project for 11-18 yr olds. It will engage them in inspiring activities to create their new Sports Channel, which will include interviews, marketing and production led by an industry specialist. Linking arts, sports and careers, this is a fantastic free opportunity for young people! Please contact anna.chapman@newham.gov.uk for more information.

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The Big Ambition:

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched The Big Ambition, a national survey of children and young people across England.

The Big Ambition aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important! In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England. The Big Ambition survey will be open until Friday December 15. (<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-ambition/>)

Holiday food vouchers:

We are pleased to advise Newham Council has again decided to allocate funding from the Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund to schools to provide food vouchers to children eligible for free school meals for the October half term. The Council has decided to issue a grant payment to all Infant, Junior, Primary and Secondary schools in Newham in line with the approach taken for previous school holidays. The funding will cover food voucher costs for children in years Reception to year 11 who are currently receiving statutory (benefits related) Free School Meals (FSM), to cover the five days of the October half term holiday period. In line with the approach taken for the previous vouchers issued by the school, we will send £15 vouchers for the half term break through text and/or email using Wonde. The vouchers will be sent out on the last day of term.

In the second half of the term, we will continue to focus on academic excellence, personal growth, and the well-being of our students. We encourage open communication between home and school. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teachers or the school office.

Thank you again for your unwavering support and partnership in your child's education. Together, we can ensure that each student at Little Ilford School achieves their full potential.

I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable mid-term break. We look forward to welcoming all our students back on 30th October.

Kind regards,
Andrew Finn
Headteacher

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