



LITTLE ILFORD SCHOOL

COURAGE • COMMITMENT • COMPASSION

Rectory Road, London E12 6JB

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

9th December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I appreciate your support in getting this academic year off to a positive start. I continue to be impressed by the Courage, Commitment, and Compassion shown by many members of our school community. Their resilience, regardless of the challenges faced, is inspirational.

As you will be aware, we have recently had our OFSTED inspection. At the moment, I am not able to share the outcome until we have the written report. However, as soon as we do, I will ensure it is shared with you.

Headteacher Q &A:

Thank you to all parents who attended the Headteacher's Question and Answer session. As I said in the meeting, it is vitally important for us to 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 theme was to discuss our behaviour strategy in school and I started the meeting by sharing some information:

- In January 2022 we surveyed staff, parents and students. The key outcome was that behaviour could be improved
- We took six months to investigate Best Practice
- The new strategy started in September 2022
- Positive impact in many areas, 50% reduction of students arriving late, reduction in behaviour incidents, reduction in suspensions
- Recognition of challenges with communication

We are aware of and actively looking to address the challenges with communication around behaviour points and detentions. From January, we will use Satchel One to record all behaviour incidents. Using this platform will ensure the incident is communicated directly to parents/carers with a follow-up message informing parents/carers of when the detention will

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be held. We would appreciate your feedback when this begins to ensure it is achieving the most favourable outcome.

There was also a discussion about homework and which platform it was being set on. Therefore, I have requested that all homework be recorded on Satchel One, so parents know what is being set.

There was also a point raised regarding supply teachers. From time to time, we have to use supply teachers to cover staff absence. However, work is still set by the Class Teacher. As part of our new behaviour strategy, we have more corridor surveillance and members of staff visit supply teachers lessons. We will continue to monitor and support our supply teachers to ensure our students are provided with the best possible provision.

A point was raised regarding students wearing makeup. Our behaviour policy does not permit the use of makeup and this is something we will be following up with in January. Students will be informed over the next week that nail varnish, make-up, false nails and false eyelashes are not permitted and will have to be removed before a student attends lessons.

Another point raised was regarding the many clubs being scheduled on Wednesday in Week B. We are looking into this matter and also continue to look to enhance the extra curricular opportunities for all students.

A parent also raised concerns about PE lessons occurring outdoors in the rain. Students can wear base layers under their PE kit if they wish to stay warmer. Please remind your child not to leave any wet clothing on under their uniform.

The Student Council pointed out that students struggled to be comfortable in PE with the school headscarf. If students wish to wear a plain black sports headscarf during their PE lesson, they are permitted to do so.

I will organise another Headteacher Question & Answer session in the New Year, and I look forward to meeting you again then.

Strep A:

As you will have seen in the news, there is an increase nationally in the number of cases of Group A streptococcus (Strep A) compared to normal at this time of year. There is no evidence that a new strain is circulating and the increase is most likely related to high amounts of circulating bacteria and social mixing. For more information, please see the attached document.

Hardship Fund:

We recognise the additional challenges currently facing families, so I would like 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 submit an application, 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>



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Newham winter holiday activities:

Winter and the festive season is finally here with us, and the London Borough of Newham has produced an extensive Winter Activities programme brochure, for Newham's Children and young people. The brochure contains information about all the free activities on offer, the dates and the venues. Please use this [link](#) to access.

Christmas 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 Christmas Holiday. 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 from Reception to Year 11 who are currently in receipt of statutory (benefits related) Free School Meals (FSM), to cover the 10 days of the December Christmas holiday period.

Warm havens:

The current cost of living crisis is deeply impacting Newham's residents and is likely to have implications for years to come. The acute challenge of the moment is driven by generationally high inflation of essentials such as domestic energy and food; this exacerbates a chronic challenge driven by the squeeze on living standards for those towards the bottom and middle of the income distribution for many years. Given the cumulative impact on Newham's residents, there is a need to come together as a community and a place to ensure that we're using our collective levers as effectively as possible. This is in order to support the flow of income into Newham's households and to mitigate the impacts of poverty and low income on people of all ages. As part of our four-pronged response, Newham has launched the Newham Warm Havens Programme. The 'Warm Havens' Programme is working with partners of the Council to keep spaces and places open for longer including in libraries, community buildings and other places. Please use this [link](#) to find a Newham map of warm havens.

Christmas Jumper Day:

On Friday, 16th December, we invite all students to participate in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day. The whole school will be taking part and we are asking pupils to make a £1 donation, or whatever they can give, to help save children's lives around the

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world. The money they raise will go to Save the Children, making sure every child, no matter where they're born, have essentials like food and water, healthcare, education, protection and shelter. All your child needs to do is wear a festive woolly and bring in a suggested £1 donation. There's no need to splash out on new sweaters to join in the fun. You could borrow or accessorise an old woolly with a few decorations. If you'd like to find out more about Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day, go to christmasjumperday.org. We'd really appreciate your support to make Christmas Jumper Day a success – it's a great cause, so together, we can make the world better in our sweaters!

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Finn
Headteacher