



LITTLE ILFORD SCHOOL

COURAGE • COMMITMENT • COMPASSION

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Co-Headteachers:

Ian Wilson

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22 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's been an action-packed week in regard to the government's plans for reopening secondary schools next month for students in Year 10. The guidance says that we should:

"offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 students who are due to take key exams next year"

In our Senior Leadership Team meetings, we have been discussing a range of possible scenarios for reopening. We can tell you for certain that we will **not** be ready to open on the 1st of June. The government's update on the pandemic is due on the 28th of May and we are expecting to receive more guidance from the Department for Education, among other sources, which, up to now, have focused mainly on primary schools. We are in the midst of creating detailed risk assessments, which we will be discussing with staff after the half term holiday. We will let you know the detail of our plans as soon as possible thereafter.

I appreciate that many parents are concerned about sending their child back to school at this time. Attendance in school for children in eligible year groups will remain entirely voluntary. You do not have to send your child into school if you do not want to. The government have issued guidance to parents and carers and this can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

The school will remain open to vulnerable children (apart from the ASD Unit) and key workers' children over the May half term as before.

We hope that you'll appreciate that we are seeking to be cautious and measured. Whilst we are very aware of our civic duty to educate our children, many of whom meet the government's 'disadvantaged' measure, we are also very aware of our duty of care to our children and staff.

Our site staff are studying the building to assess the capacity of each type of classroom in terms of social distancing. Our corridors are narrow, and we are considering the capacity restrictions that result from that. Any opening date will be predicated on the stringent standards of our risk assessment being met.

Phone calls from staff

We wanted to let you know that we have changed our school policy to allow our staff to contact you on their own phones. For GDPR reasons, they have to conceal their number.

“... an excellent ambassador for community cohesion within the locality - OFSTED ”



This means that you may receive 'unknown caller' calls from our staff. To make this more manageable for you, I have asked staff only to contact you during school hours unless it is an emergency.

If you wish to contact the school, can you please use our info@littleilford.org email. This is because we can't cover the school phones during working hours. Similarly, we don't have the capacity to respond to letters arriving on site.

Eid-ul-Fitr

EID is fast approaching, and we hope that our Muslim parents and students have a wonderful EID. I have been sent two video links giving advice about safety during this period. I hope that you will find them useful.

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1261729709164986369>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBJVTKUpQBs>

Assemblies

Just a reminder that information for students on our pastoral assemblies can be found on the website at this link:

<https://www.littleilford.newham.sch.uk/parents-students-parents/students/pastoral-learning-from-home-assemblies> and on Google classroom.

Online Books

Our wonderful Librarian, Ms Showunmi, has compiled a wealth of library resources to be accessed online and (mostly) for free. Please look at the students' area on the school website and click on the library tab. We also recommend that you sign up to Newham Libraries through their website if you haven't done so already, as you might need to use your local library details to access the online resources.

It only remains for us to wish you and your families well in these tricky times. Please do contact us if you need any help or support

Yours faithfully

Mr Ian Wilson & Ms Helen Marriott
Co-headteachers