



# LITTLE ILFORD SCHOOL

COURAGE • COMMITMENT • COMPASSION

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21st October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout the first half term of the academic year. As you are aware we have been raising our expectations of students and have noted some really positive results. We will continue to strive to fulfill our vision and with your continued support ensure our students achieve their full potential.

### **Black History Month:**

This month was the start of Black History Month. As a community we decided that we not only celebrate Black History during October but also events throughout the academic year.

I would like to share an introduction from the Black History Month website (<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk>) and specifically their theme for this year:

### **Time for Change, Action Not Words.**

*October Black History Month is a reflection of the positive contribution Black peoples have made in the development of Britain.*

*For countless generations people of African and Caribbean descent have been shaping our nation's story, making a huge difference to our national and cultural life and helping to make Britain a better place to be.*

*That contribution is overwhelmingly apparent today in the energy, talent and dedication of business leaders, lawyers, academics, musicians, artists and many more.*

*During Black History Month, we tell the stories of those less well-known individuals who we will forget if we don't showcase them. Where people have been excluded, it is right that we highlight them so their valuable contributions to that evolution are not forgotten.*

*These achievements aren't only of interest or relevance to black people. They belong to us all, whatever our skin colour. We're all standing on their shoulders in some way, as we aspire to evolve further to fulfil our potential – individually, and as a nation.*

*In any diverse society, there are always difficult moments that need to be borne and reconciled with.*

*But when division threatens unity and progress, it's vital that we work with each other to bring people back together. (<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk>)*

I am sure we have some inspiring individuals in our community whom we could highlight so their contributions are not forgotten. Please advise us if you know of any such individuals whom we could invite into school to speak to the students.

Please follow this link <https://www.newhamblackhistory.org>, to discover events that are taking place in Newham for Black History Month.

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

**Michigan State University:**

We recently had the pleasure of hosting a group of professionals from Michigan State University. They are policy writers investigating “**Education Policy in England: Removing Barriers to Learning to Promote Student Success**”. They were extremely impressed by the work of the staff at Little Ilford School and also the students and the School Council with whom they had a Question and Answer session. Our students really were outstanding representatives of the school.

**Appointments during the school day**

Could I remind parents if a child has to attend an appointment during the school day, they will need to provide evidence, such as a copy of the appointment letter, to their Pastoral Achievement Leader (PAL). Please sign their planner indicating the time they need to leave school. Once approved by the PAL it will be the child’s responsibility to leave their lesson on time.

**Free School Meals holiday funding:**

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 from Reception to Year 11 who are currently in receipt of 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 be sending £15 vouchers for the half term through text and or email using Wonde. The vouchers will be sent out on the last day of term.

**Autumn break activities:**

Autumn is here with us and we have a range of fun and exciting activities for the Autumn School Break for children of all ages (including those who are vulnerable) to enjoy. Most of the activities are free, some are at subsidised prices as indicated on the attached brochure. There is a wide range of activities to do during this school break at our Youth Zones, Libraries, Leisure Centres, Children’s Centres and Parks. There are many face to face activities as well as online activities over Zoom.

Please view the brochure and see what appeals to you, from Pony Rides, BMX sessions, Youth Dances, Black History Month (BHM) Movies and events, Youth Choir singing, Combat Sports, Badminton to Halloween Parties, Stories and Quizzes and so much more, the list is endless.

Thank you to all of the parents who attended our Coffee Morning. I will arrange similar events during the next half term.

I wish everyone an enjoyable and safe holiday. I look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Monday 31st October 2022 at 8:20am.

Kind regards,

Andrew Finn  
Headteacher