

THE ALDGATE SCHOOL



Friday 18th September 2020

Faith, hope and love abide, these three: and the greatest of these is love.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another week in school I would like to update you on a number of things going on here in school.

Thank you to all of those families who completed our Google form about the proposed new logo. 81.3% of respondents preferred the logo with just The Aldgate on it. We will be moving forward with getting this transferred into a pattern that can be added onto the school uniform.

As you are all aware, we had a visit from OFSTED earlier this week. During the day, the inspectors questioned us closely around our children's behaviour, attendance, the school's safeguarding processes and the curriculum. As this was a pilot visit, a test run before it is rolled out across the country, unfortunately we won't receive any formal feedback from the experience. We do however know that the HMI were happy with everything they saw and heard about, which is really useful to know that we are doing the right thing by all of our families.

As the term has progressed, a number of our pupils have been feeling a little under the weather and experiencing cold-like symptoms. This is not unusual or unexpected – our children have been at home for a long period of time and they are readjusting their systems to get used to being around lots of people and having 5 full days worth of routine and learning once again. As long as your child is not experiencing any of the 3 key COVID symptoms, then please proceed as you usually would in terms of sending your child in or keeping them at home.

The guidance for schools is that if your child has **one** of the 3 officially recognised COVID symptoms that they are not sent in to school and that you arrange to get your child COVID tested. Please inform the school that this is what you are doing. The symptoms are:

- A high temperature
- A new continuous cough
- A loss or change to the sense of taste or smell

We fully recognise that different services are offering differing information as to when to get a test but the guidance for schools is clear. With one symptom you should get a test. We also recognise that it is not always easy to get hold of a COVID test at the moment, however if your child is not able to get a test we are having to ask them to isolate for 10 days before they return to school. If a child is in school with any of the three symptoms, we will contact you to ask you to collect them straight away.

If your child gets a positive COVID test result then please let the school know immediately as we will need to contact external services to explore our current provision and whether we need to close any classes or bubbles.

If a member of your household is unwell and your child has to isolate, then let the school know and we will send them some home learning to complete during their absence from school. From next week this will be shared via Google Classrooms. If you have difficulty accessing home learning this way then do let the school know when you inform us that your child is isolating. If the child is unwell, then obviously we won't expect

them to be doing school work while they are at home. If the guidance that we have changes, then I will let you know.

At the moment we are unable to offer swimming sessions as the swimming pool has not yet reopened and whilst we are offering music lessons, we are not currently operating singing lessons or a choir. This is a huge shame as I know that many of our children enjoy the singing sessions we have in school during normal times. We have however been included in an offer that THAMES music has put in place: A Free Virtual Children's Choir for any of our children aged 7 to 11 years old. Please see the details below.



THAMES

Virtual Children's Choir

Mondays 4.30-5.30pm

Starting on
Monday 5 October 2020

For 7-11 years olds who live or attend school in Tower Hamlets

Join us online on Mondays after school for our new virtual choir. Each session will take place using free online video software Zoom and include:

- Fun singing warm-ups
- Singing games
- Learning new songs



Participation is FREE

What you need to take part:

- A quiet space at home where you can sing!
- A computer, iPad or smart phone
- Internet connection and an email address (parent/carer's) to download Zoom
- Parents/carers will need to complete a safeguarding consent form

To register, please complete the online application form at
thames.towerhamlets.gov.uk
Once registered, further instructions will be emailed to you.
If you have any questions, contact Alison Porter: 020 7364 0431
alison.porter@towerhamlets.gov.uk