



24th April 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I hope you are all into the swing of being back at school for the Summer Term. Over the past week, school business has carried on as usual and we are busy thinking ahead, not only about the possibility of everybody returning to school before the end of the summer term, but also about September and the next academic year. Offers have already been made to our new Nursery and Reception class pupils.

Online classrooms

Since our return to school we have had some requests from parents for class teachers to do some live, online teaching with their classes. Whilst we appreciate that your children might enjoy and respond to having 'face to face' contact with their teachers and their classmates, the logistics of making this work for all, would be complex and impractical on many levels. For many families it is very difficult to enable access to devices at prescribed times, particularly when siblings and parents all use a limited number of devices. In one of our families, five children are dependent on one device.

It is also important to remember that the teachers are also working from home, setting work for all pupils on a daily basis. They are not working in their classrooms and therefore do not have all of the practical teaching resources that they might ordinarily have at hand. Some teachers also have young families at home or children who need to access devices too.

Our teachers will be and have been uploading videos, voice messages and instructions and sharing links with relevant content, to teach and support your children's learning. They also regularly check the work your children upload. Teachers also come in to school throughout the week to help with the teaching of key worker and vulnerable children.

I hope you can understand the reasoning behind why, in line with the majority of schools in Camden, we are not offering online classroom teaching at Hawley. I appreciate that during this current lockdown, your children are missing the opportunity to socialise with their peers and that this is a huge gap in their lives. I would encourage you, perhaps through the contact lists in your class WhatsApp groups, to make time each week for your children to get together with their friends using online video call apps such as Zoom, WhatsApp and Skype.

Spare devices anyone?

This week Camden is launching its Digital Divide campaign to gather as many spare devices as it can, for pupils that are unable to access online learning because there are not enough devices at home, or none at all.

Camden is approaching some of the larger businesses in Camden for donations of devices, but I am making a personal appeal to you, just in case you have a working device that is not in use, in good working order and you are willing to give or loan it to one of our families. If you do, please contact the school. Likewise, if you are one of our families that is struggling to enable your child to take advantage of the online learning being delivered via SeeSaw, please contact school to let us know.

TOP TIPS

Limit the amount of time spent reading about COVID-19.

This information can cause additional worry and is ever changing. Find a few trusted sources that you can check in with and limit this to perhaps, once or twice a day.

Give loved ones the benefit of the doubt.

A lot of time indoors together, can bring out both the best and worst in people. People react differently to stress. Try not to engage in every argument.

Courtesy of Camden Learning



Birthdays between 20th and 30th April

Happy 4th Birthday

20th April – **Aaliya O** (Nursery)

Happy 5th Birthday

22nd April- **Scarlett** (Reception)

Happy 8th Birthday

22nd April - **Oscar** (Year 3)

26th April – **Nina C** (Year 3)

Happy 9th Birthday

28th April – **Eden** (Year 4)

Happy 10th Birthday

27th April - **Ellie** (Year 5)

We hope you all had a wonderful day!

With very best wishes for the good health of you and your families,

Anne Fontaine
Headteacher