

Dear Parent/ Carer,

## **RESILIENT CLASSROOMS & SCHOOL MEALS 22-06-2020**

It is really hard to imagine that over 100 days have gone by since lockdown started due to COVID-19. Much has changed for all of us over this time, and we recognise it has not been easy. We hope that the school has been a support for you and your family, and we will continue to do our best in the coming months ahead as we navigate these new waters.

As our young people begin to return to school in higher numbers, it is likely that a range of different needs and behaviours will be identified resulting from issues they may have faced during lockdown, or as a result of the transition back to school. It is important to remember that every young person will respond differently because of their general resilience and other protective factors. We also know that there may be some children who may hide their difficulties.

There are learners who may be experiencing bereavement or loss, suffering from lack of social contact, breakdown of relationships, or just managing the changes to social expectations, boundaries and appropriate interactions. Many of our learners have expressed the need for frequent comfort and reassurance and strategies have been put in place here at NCA to support them. We have developed "Resilient Classrooms" - which means that we check in with students regularly, foster new relationships with staff across the school and create opportunities to re-establish relationships with peers and staff. Staff are consciously modelling compassion – always being prepared to talk, listen and receive and respond to learners. We are offering core curriculum in the timetable for learning, but also additional time with structured physical and creative activities.

We are promoting belonging and transition support for learners who are still moving ahead with their school careers as they graduate into Secondary, KS4 and 6<sup>th</sup> Form. This may involve you as parents and carers to help co-create a transition plan for your child. Even now we are welcoming new learners for the coming academic year to join in with our current class of 2020 to build new relationships ready for September. In addition to this we are working to support staff wellbeing and develop resilient teachers by continuing our staff training in Emotion Coaching and Mindfulness as a part of a whole school approach.

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In recent weeks the 'Black Lives Matter' campaign has gained considerable momentum here in the UK following the horrific death of George Floyd in the US last month. We understand that the related issues and the heightened media coverage may have had a profound effect of staff, children and families alike. I know that some of us have family and friends in the US who will have been directly affected by events over there as well as those impacted by events closer to home. Over the coming months we will continue to work with our learning community to highlight some of the challenges and review the history that has brought us to the present-day crisis of confidence in some of our public institutions. We recognise that this is not an easy time for anyone so if you find that you or your child are showing any related anxiety, please contact Claudia McGowan, our Therapy Lead, who will signpost support or assign your case to a member of her team. I would also encourage you to visit [Youngminds.org.uk](http://Youngminds.org.uk) and look at this blog article: ["What to do if your Child is Anxious to go to school."](#) or to seek support information from a trusted source.

You can find related information at the websites below:

<https://www.talkspace.com/blog/black-lives-matter-resources-people-of-color/>

<https://www.capitalfm.com/news/black-lives-matter/mental-health-support-uk/>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/black-lives-matter-children-parents-how-to-teach-anti-racism-education-white-privilege-a9569001.html>

<https://happiful.com/free-guide-released-to-help-parents-talk-to-children-about-black-lives-matter/>

And lastly, **Free School Meals** – There have been several queries recently from parents when a free school meal result has been returned as not eligible, or a parent thought they were eligible for the FSM voucher but not received them.

There could be a few reasons for this:

- Information provided by the parent / carer was incorrect or incomplete
- The Government office had not yet updated the system if they are a new claimant (Currently the departments are very busy).

It is important that we review FSM eligibility for all of our families as the release of Free School Meal Vouchers will happen through the summer holidays for all eligible learners. Please read through my letter on Free School Meals and complete the attached form.

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Our Outstanding Pupils last week were:

Learning Heroes!	
Key stage 1	
Cherry	Sam
Key stage 2	
Willow	Kayson
Oak	Leo, Tyler, Dren
Maple	Ryan, Alfie
Key Stage 3	
Year 7	Charlie A
Year 8	Brandon P
Year 9	Reece, Shay
Key stage 4	
Year 10	Kyle W, John T
Year 11	Rashawn T

Excellent Attenders	
Key stage 1	
Cherry	Sam, Mack, Archie
Key stage 2	
Willow	Stuart, Harvey, Kah'zae, Kayson
Oak	Ashley, Leo, Dorian, Dren
Maple	Jerry, Kayden
Key Stage 3	
Year 7	Charlie A
Year 8	Brandon P, Kiki
Year 9	Reece, Luke, Zack, Kieran
Key stage 4	
Year 10	Kyle W, Bradley D, Brandon DD
Year 11	Matthew, Rashawn

Well done again to all of these boys who have been working so hard. I hope to see some new names next week! We would also like to have special thanks to Joshua Farrell, Farm Manager, for keeping the Farm open for all our learners every day and the welcoming of a new litter of piglets born this week. We also have a visiting pony named Black Beauty aka Fred. We would love you to come and see him and the new arrivals.

We will continue to provide as much detail as possible in our **communication to parents and carers** but if you have any questions or feel like we have missed something please get in touch and let us know. Email [info@nightingaleca.org](mailto:info@nightingaleca.org) or call reception. For those of you who are uncertain about transport arrangements, the local authority teams can be reached on the following numbers:

Borough	Contact Number	Borough	Contact Number
Wandsworth	020 8871 7977	Southwark	020 7703 6180
Lambeth	020 7926 6839	Kingston	020 8547 5540
Croydon	020 8686 2215	Hounslow	07476310089
Merton	020 8545 3286	Surrey 1	07563544522
Lewisham	020 3049 1204	Surrey 2	07532816360

Keep well and keep safe,

Jimmy Brownell

Assistant Principal