

UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

Who could have imagined 6 months ago that schools would effectively be shut by a virus—and for months at a time! I know that a number of our families have been personally affected by Covid-19 and things will never be the same for you. Our thoughts have been with you and we will do our best to make sure your children are fully supported and get the appropriate attention they require when back in school.



More information over the page, but it is important that you let the school know if there have been any experiences we should be aware of during this period when we have not had day to day contact with you.

However, the world did not stop ...

It is important to know the schools still had to go about their usual business the past five months. All the necessary events continued and took place.

Headteacher appointment—Central Park went out to advert for the permanent appointment of a Headteacher and Paul Taylor was successful in that process. I'm sure you will join me in congratulating Paul upon his permanent appointment.



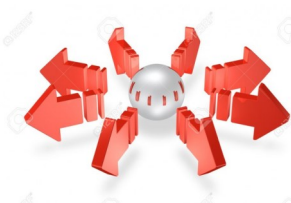
Internal Audit—Central Park had confirmation that the internal audit back in February resulted in a judgement of 'substantial assurance', the highest level.

'Education for Change'—The Black Lives Matter agenda over the recent months has affected all of us in different ways. Lando has been central to devising a programme aimed to educate to eliminate racism in our schools. A programme that is growing momentum, with Local Authority backing. We want our schools in the Federation to be beacons of excellence in this area, pupils at the heart of facilitating this change. More details will be announced next term.

Births, hellos and goodbyes—Information of exact staff changes will have been outlined in individual school newsletters but I wanted to just mention a few. A couple of long serving staff at Dersingham leave to take up promotions in new schools. Emma was successful in appointment to a Deputy Headteacher position in a Newham school. Hopefully she will not be a loss to our Federation as we grow in size (see below). Ainsley moves out of Borough, closer to home, to take on a Phase Leader position. At Central Park, Leena Prabhakumar is leaving after nearly 30 years at the school to work abroad in an international school. A number of staff have also given birth and begun maternity leave. Congratulations to all those mentioned and others who will be leaving or joining our Federation.



Federation Growth—Whilst we have not been able to do anything formally to expand the Federation, work has been taking place. Both Emma Griffin and Rachel Speed have been working with Calverton Primary. Emma has now secured a DHT role in the school. Federation Governors and Calverton Governors are keen to progress to formal consultation and we hope this can take place once the schools have settled into the new term. All being well we should expand the Federation to 3 schools during Spring 2021.



SUMMER SCHEMES

The schools will be formally closed over the summer with only some targeted events happening, The Local Authority will imminently announce their plans for school schemes—a programme to support children during the summer holiday. We understand their will be a more targeted offer for key workers. As soon as we have any details we will send these out to you but also do check the newham.gov.uk website.



SEPTEMBER 2020 AND NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR



I want to firstly say a huge thank you to all those who have put their trust and faith in the schools by sending their children back in the priority year groups. It has been a hugely anxious time for everyone and we can understand why many families are still concerned about children returning to school. However, the schools are planning towards full re-opening of schools from September as requested by the Government. We all hope that we will be in a position to do so as the risk of the virus continues to reduce. The position in Newham is much better than most parts of the country. Let's hope this remains the case in the coming weeks but we cannot be complacent in our actions.

Each school is in the process of revising their risk assessment to consider full opening of the schools in the safest way possible. Governors have approved plans for the schools to delay opening slightly in September. The use of exceptional, non-pupil days at the start of term is for health and safety training, ensuring the building is Covid-safe and training for new processes and procedures; alongside the usual INSET sessions for the start of term e.g. safeguarding and new school plan priorities. The Local Authority is supporting schools in taking these additional days. Therefore children will be invited back to school from **Monday 7th September**. Each school will provide the exact arrangements at the start of next term but there is likely to be a slight phasing of starts to ensure the safe return for larger numbers of pupils.



As requested by the Government, children will still remain in 'bubbles' as currently arranged but these 'bubbles' will be on a larger scale. Children will be in class sized 'bubbles' for most of the day but this will expand to year group 'bubbles' for break and lunch times to assist the running of the school. **Staggered drop off and pick up times, nominated entry gates and revised break times will still be in place.** A clear outline will be provided at the start of term.



One key change, approved by Governors, will be to initially **introduce a version of a 4 1/2 day week at school**. The main reason is to allow the statutory PPA arrangements for teachers to take place without bringing in additional visitors to the school, who will have been visiting many other schools during the week. This means the school will 'close' Friday afternoons. On that half-day, key worker children and those who will not be able to collect their children can remain in school. Online learning arrangements will be in place whether at home or school. We recognise this may be inconvenient for some but trust you agree reducing risk and safety have to be paramount. We will do our best to support those for whom this is challenging. The arrangement will be reviewed at the October half-term.

The schools plan to deliver a full, broad and ambitious curriculum right from the start of term, with gap analysis taking place early to ensure essential missed learning is completed. During the initial weeks there will also be a chance to modify the timetable to allow for more discursive lessons and deal with the emotional impact the pandemic will have had on us all.



One area that has not gone away is Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE). This was due to be mandatory from September but the Government recognises that many schools will have not have been able to carry out the necessary consultation on the policy and programme during the Summer Term and extended its implementation deadline until summer 2021. There are so many areas of the RSHE programme we will bring in from September e.g. online safety, emotional and mental health, keeping safe from abuse, etc. and will get your views on the more contentious aspects during the Autumn Term before teaching them.

HAPPY SUMMER HOLIDAYS

The last few months have felt very long! The unprecedented nature of the pandemic has made it a very stressful time for everyone, especially school leaders. Staff are looking forward to their well-deserved breaks. I am sure you will join me in thanking the Headteachers, Paul and Lando, for all their efforts. I wish our families a lovely summer break and hope you get quality family time together. Keep alert, be aware, maintain caution and, importantly, remain safe and healthy. I sincerely hope to see you all back in school in September.



Darren Williams, Executive Headteacher