

4 May 2020

Parents and Carers
Via Email

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you are all keeping safe and managing your daily lives and supporting your children during these unprecedented times.

As the lockdown continues, we wanted to take this opportunity to thank our school and early years settings for all they have done in providing care to our most vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. Not only have our early years practitioners, support staff, teachers and headteachers made it possible for our critical workers to be at work, but they continue to provide learning opportunities for those children who remain at home.

Our education staff have worked tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to support their local communities. A significant number of our schools remained open over the Easter holidays, have provided additional places for children of critical workers, and have opened their playgrounds for hospital staff to use their facilities. Schools have been providing hampers of food for their most vulnerable pupils, delivering these across the borough ensuring no child goes hungry. These are just a few examples of how our education staff have responded to the Covid-19 crisis.

The efforts shown by Hammersmith and Fulham schools and early years providers has been truly remarkable and we are sure that you will join us in thanking them for their significant contribution during this time. Our education staff is committed to delivering exceptional service during unprecedented circumstances. They have all gone above and beyond not only to provide academic support but to ensure morale is kept high amongst the community. We have seen a plethora of pictures, images and videos showcasing wonderfully how our community have pulled together to support one another and show solidarity.

We are sure you will be aware that while the Government have cancelled all exams, schools are now required to respond to the needs of a wide range of children both in school and in their community, which has placed additional demands on our school staff. This is at a time when a significant number of our schools and early years providers have been impacted by the virus and subsequent lockdown.

Our education staff have been heartened by the support from our parents and carers as they continue to respond to the needs of children learning at home. Your appreciation is very important, and we thank you for this. We also acknowledge the pressure that is placed upon parents and carers in supporting virtual learning. The home learning is often developed through the resources provided by their schools and early years providers; however, it is important to remember that home learning will never be able to replicate a typical school day and so please have patience with your own expectations of both you and your child. Schools are providing all the resources they can to support parents in their role as home educators. We urge you to continue to be supportive and compassionate while our schools meet the complex demands of their new role and hope you are compassionate with yourselves during this time as we understand that becoming home educators is new for you too.

Please be assured that your school staff are working hard to plan for the next stages in this unprecedented period and we expect government guidance regarding a phased return to learning. We understand that this is a worrying time for you and your children, especially for those who are due to move schools, sit exams or leave school at the end of the academic year. Please continue to support your school and early years providers as they are all committed to achieving the best they can in an uncertain period.

We are confident that all children and young people will be able to progress to the next stage of their Education journey and that schools with the Local Authority, your support and partnership, will ensure that we will do our utmost for everyone across Hammersmith and Fulham.

In closing, we would like to remind you of our commitment to the Governments message of Stay at Home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives .

Yours faithfully



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Do you know a friend, relative or neighbour who needs help with food, loneliness or isolation?

Freephone h&f CAN
0800 145 6095

9am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 2pm on weekends
or email can@lbhf.gov.uk

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