



Friday 7th May 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you and your families are keeping well during this time. I am writing with some updates and some information about things that are happening within the school at the current time.

'Stop the Hate' workshops

On Tuesday 27th April, the West Ham Foundation came in to the school to run a series of workshops with students. The theme was 'Stope the Hate' and the focus was the importance of combating racism and other forms of discrimination. Students took part in the workshops in a thoughtful, respectful and mature way. We were proud of the way in which they responded to the discussion of these challenging issues.

Eid closure day - reminder

Next week, members of our community will be celebrating Eid al-Fitr. This will fall on either **Wednesday 12th** or **Thursday 13th May**. This will mean that on the day that Eid falls, the whole school will be closed for staff and students.

We will know at approximately 5pm on Tuesday if Eid will fall on Wednesday. **Should Eid fall on Wednesday**, we will send a text message on Tuesday evening to all parents letting them know that the school is closed and this will also be on our website.

If Eid is not on Wednesday, then it will definitely be on **Thursday 13th May** and this will be relayed to students in school on Wednesday. A text message will also be sent out on Wednesday and a message will be placed on our website.

Free School Meals vouchers

Tower Hamlets local authority have informed us that they will be providing some additional free school meals vouchers for eligible families over the May half term break. Those families who are eligible will be contacted directly with more information about this nearer the time.



Lateral Flow Device testing

Please can we encourage families to continue with twice weekly lateral flow testing. Everyone within the school community has been asked to take part in this testing programme, to help minimise asymptomatic transmission of the virus. We recommend that students test on Wednesdays and Sundays. Test results must be reported to NHS Test and Trace and also to the school, via the link that has been sent to you by Ms Brian. Any positive tests should be reported immediately by email to the school – info@mulberryutc.org.

Covid-19

If your child receives a positive Covid-19 test, please notify the school immediately using the email address info@mulberryutc.org. Your email must include your child's name, tutor group and a copy of the test result. If your child receives a negative test result, you do not need to notify the school.

Please go on to the Covid-19 section of our website for up to date guidance from the Department for Education, Public Health England and the school: <http://mulberryutc.org/coronavirus-covid-19-information/>

Please find below some additional information from Public Health England, relating to the recent 'surge testing' that has been put into place in some areas of Tower Hamlets:

Message from Public Health for England

A small number of people in Tower Hamlets have types of Covid-19 called 'variants of concern'. These were first found in Brazil and South Africa.

These variants are called 'variants of concern' because we currently do not know if they spread more easily than the most common type of Covid-19, if they cause more severe disease or if vaccines are fully effective against them.

We are doing extra testing in areas of the borough for a time-limited period to try to:

1. Find as many cases as possible to stop/slow spread
2. Learn more about the variants of concern.

There is currently no evidence that these variants cause more severe illness. Although the risk to the wider community is considered low, as a precaution, Tower Hamlets Council is working in collaboration with PHE and NHS Test and Trace to offer extra testing in targeted areas.



If you live in the following postcodes, we are strongly encouraging everyone over the age of 11 to **get tested, even if they are well or have been vaccinated**. This will help us to control the virus better and get us all back to living our normal lives sooner.

Postcodes:

All of E1 4** and E1 3**

Some of E1 0, E1 1, E1 2, E1 5, E14 7, E2 0, E2 6, E3 4.

You can check your postcode here - https://forms.towerhamlets.gov.uk/service/COVID_19_surge_test and check if you are being asked to get a test.

We are making tests more easily available:

1. At a new test unit at Gouldman House, E1 4HQ from 8:30am to 3pm.

At other nearby test sites to the area:

- Idea Store Watney Market, 260 Commercial Street, E1 2FB
- Ecology Pavilion, Grove Rd, Bow, London E3 5TW

Appointments at these test sites can be booked online.

2. Tests can also be booked through the NHS Covid-19 app or by calling 119.

3. **If you have symptoms** you must book a test via the national portal.

4. Home testing tests will be available for collection and return at the sites below from 12pm to 6pm from Sunday 2 May to Tuesday 4 May:

- Bethnal Green Gardens, off Cambridge Heath Road, in front of Bethnal Green Library, E2 0HL
- Anchor Retail Park, 123 Mile End Rd, Stepney Green, London E1 4UJ
- Corner of Redmans Road and Stepney Green, north of Stepney Green Park, E1 3NG
- Tramshed Community Hub on Digby Street, E2 0LS (behind Albert Jacob House)



Principal: Dr Katharine Vincent

After being tested:

- You will receive your test results from NHS Test & Trace
- Whilst awaiting your results, you can carry on with normal activities (provided you and your household remain well)
- If you test POSITIVE, you and your household will need to self-isolate for 10 days
- If you test NEGATIVE, you do not need to isolate

Extra support is available to those who need it

- If you, or anyone in your household tests positive and needs to self-isolate for 10 days there is support available to help with things like food, money and medicine.
- Visit the council website: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/covid-support. Or, call 020 7364 3030 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

The same national guidance continues to apply in areas where new variants have been identified and education settings can remain open.

Existing testing (using lateral flow tests) will continue in educational settings and parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can continue to access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.

Thank you once again for all your ongoing support for the school.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent
Principal