

To All Parents and Carers

20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It is with immense sadness that I write this letter to you, on the last day Brunswick Park is open as a school before it closes tomorrow indefinitely. On behalf of all the staff here I tell you that we absolutely love having your children here; they teach us so much and bring us great joy. We will miss them enormously, and this is made worse by the fact that we do not know for how long they will be away.

Whilst the school is closed:

Childcare – known as ‘reduced provision’ – has been offered to key workers who have no other childcare arrangements, children with social workers, children with EHCPs who do not have underlying health conditions, Looked After children, children whose families have No Recourse to Public Funds and children whose current family situation makes them especially vulnerable. Letters and communications have already been sent to those families who have been offered childcare (reduced provision). **If you have not received one, your child should not come to school. If you have received one and you do not want a childcare place, please inform School Office staff as soon as possible.** Government direction is very clear and is as follows: **if children can be looked after safely at home they should not come to school. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

Children entitled to Free School Meals who are not in the reduced provision will receive a packed lunch every weekday, starting from Monday 23 March. Letters have been sent to parents and carers of children entitled to Free School Meals about these arrangements, the most important of which is if you would like to collect a lunch for your child to telephone the School Office by 9.30am to let us know.

Helping your child with learning at home:

For the next two weeks it is term time, before the Easter Break starts on 6 April. Until then, please refer to your child’s home learning packs and books and the letter **Learning at Brunswick Park whilst the school is closed**, sent home with the children on Thursday 19 March, and our website www.brunswickparkprimary.co.uk. Parents and carers of Nursery and Reception children will receive communications on Monday 23 March to provide additional support. Our website is full of information to help and support you, and we will use it to communicate with you along with email, text and ParentMail. Please keep checking these, as our staff are still working and teachers will be checking in to find out how you and your children are doing.

Accessing help:

Marjorie Damah, our School Home Support Worker, is still working for 4 days per week as usual: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. If you would like to get in touch with her, please contact the School Office staff who will put you in touch with her.



Brunswick Park Primary School
Picton Street
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Head Teacher
Susannah Bellingham

For additional contacts, please see
the school website

Tel: 020 7525 9033
Email: office@brunswickpark.southwark.sch.uk
Web: brunswickparkprimary.co.uk

There are a number of food banks operating in the borough that can support families who may be facing food shortages:

Southwark Foodbank (PECAN) - 020 773 20007 / <https://www.pecan.org.uk/southwarkfoodbank>

Five centres operating in the borough with opening times and locations listed on its website.

Oasis Foodbank - 0207 357 7331

Has one distribution centre in Southwark at St George The Martyr Church. Borough High St, London, SE1 1JA

Central Southwark Community Hub - 020 7703 1653 / <https://www.cschub.co.uk/>

Four centres in the borough with locations and opening hours listed on its website. Clients need to be referred to Margaret Taribo (margaret.taribo@cschub.co.uk) before a visit is made.

Camberwell Community Fridge – 020 7737 6186 / Albrighton Centre

Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

The Borough Free Fridge – 02073577331 / St George The Martyr Church, Borough High Street, SE1 1JA.

Open Tuesday afternoon, 2-5pm.

If you are entitled to Food Bank Vouchers, Marjorie Damah, Fiona O'Malley and Andrea Inniss-Griffith are all still able to issue them. Please contact the School Office or email office@brunswickpark.southwark.sch.uk .

There is also the

Southwark Emergency Support scheme

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/emergency-support>

Contact Number: 020 7525 2434

Southwark Council announced earlier this week a further £1.5m in emergency funding to be made available ensuring those requiring emergency support including food and fuel would be able to access support immediately. Whilst Government has announced some further support for families in receipt of free school meals we recognise that this may take some time to be made available.

We will be making temporary changes to the eligibility criteria for the Southwark Emergency Support Scheme.

Eligibility will be extended to those who experience a sudden loss or interruption to income as a consequence of the impacts of COVID-19 and who lack other resources to meet their household's basic needs for short periods.

The following criteria will also apply to families who live in Southwark and whose children are currently in receipt of free school meals until such times as government put alternative arrangements in place.

- Those claiming benefit but who face lengthy delays before they receive their first benefit payment and who lack other resources to meet urgent basic needs
- Those who are employed under zero-hour or similar contractual arrangements and who may still be employed but are without work or earnings and lack other resources to meet urgent basic needs
- Those who are self-employed but without work or income and lacking other resources to meet urgent basic needs

- Those whose income has fallen but where payment of Universal Credit for example does not yet reflect that change and who find themselves temporarily lacking resources to meet urgent basic needs
- Those facing significant deductions from their Universal Credit award or other benefits and as a consequence lack resources to meet urgent basic needs
- Those who experience problems claiming benefits for example due to difficulties in meeting evidence requirements (this would apply mainly to foreign nationals or UK citizens who were not born in the UK and who are we know likely to face problems when satisfying residency test for UC)

Whilst the school is closed, there will always be a skeleton staff in the building between 8.30am and 5.00pm, so if you have an urgent question, query or emergency situation requiring our help, we are here for you. **Your point of contact by telephone is 020 7525 9033, and your point of contact by email to get in touch with anyone at school is office@brunswickpark.southwark.sch.uk .**

I wish you luck, good health and all the very best in these challenging times, and I am willing this situation to end. If we continue to pull together, be kind and support each other, let's hope it happens sooner rather than later.

With best wishes as always



Susannah Bellingham
Head Teacher