



**Dear parents:** .... A very Happy New Year to everyone. I hope this year brings us happier times and we can return to what passes for normality soon. The good news (start with that) is that all children and staff who had Covid are now either fully recovered or on the mend. The last week of term and right up until December 23rd saw huge increases in cases right across London and Hackney. We still however, have significant staff shortages. The bad news is that we once again have partial closures of schools for all pupils. As I have written so many times before we are NOT closed and in fact have been open since March 23rd. The major difference this time around is that we have a much greater uptake of children from 'critical worker' parents, vulnerable children and those who have Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs). We are looking at all applications for places and will let people know shortly. We also now have to offer new 'Remote Learning', train up pupils, parents and staff in Google Classrooms for primary age children, ensure free school meals and lunches are distributed, we need to look at the safeguarding of children who are at risk, make regular contact with families in need, send out ICT resources and laptops and broadband usage vouchers, track and trace with Public Health England and ..... apart from all that it's been the usual post-Christmas quiet start to the year. Interesting times we live in and Wednesday January 6th the Feast of the Epiphany was not its usual joyous day of celebration for Orthodox Christians. For them it is the holiest day of the year Greek, Russian, Orthodox, Maronite, Chaldean, Ethiopian, Coptic... and I'm sure I can think of many more Christian denominations. Meanwhile like here it was a quiet day in Washington. Happy New Year once again to everyone ... and in the words of that once famous song 'Things can only get better' ..... well I hope so !!! Best of luck in the year ahead.

### School news this and next week ...

Monday and Tuesday .... myself and office and medical staff in preparing for opening.

Wednesday January 6th .. School re-opened with around 20% of pupils coming in. Remote Learning all uploaded to Class Dojo.

Letter from myself on the website about Remote Learning and our offer of Remote Learning and how it will evolve over the next few weeks. Lots to read.

Thursday January 7th ...Google Classroom passwords all sent out. All pupils and classes had a Google Meet which myself and Ms O'Grady welcomed everyone back whether remotely or on site. + more Chromebooks arrived.

### Laptop loans and iPad loans ...

We currently have a small number of brand new HP Chromebook laptops for loan and some school iPads. If you are interested please look on our website under Parents Info for details. Distribution starts next week.



### Reception Class Admissions 2021

Application deadline 15th January for all forms to be submitted to the school.

Admission applications via [www.admissions.org.uk](http://www.admissions.org.uk) ...or we can help if you are struggling.



### Pics of the week:

Mr Hewlett Packards finest Chromebook all ready to go. Dr Martin Luther King and his peace loving inspiring iconic 'I have a Dream' speech in Washington 1963. His dream shattered in Washington 2021 by the symbol of Southern racism, hate and slavery the Confederate flag being carried and flaunted in the Capitol 2 building seat of democracy, freedom and liberty. Let us pray for peace in 2021.

and finally . . . . hope if you made New Year resolutions they are still going well not easy .... wanted to share with you one I found a few years back by the legendary American Admiral William McRaven (a wonderful orator too) called Make your Bed ...he said this a few years ago and I found it and the philosophy behind it inspiring...well it worked for me .... Its on Youtube as is his famous speech ... I love America and actually think this week showed that the Constitution is still working ...read Fraser Nelson in today's Telegraph brilliant piece ...roll on January 20 ..