

COVID Email Update 5 April 2020

Good morning to you all

I hope you got some restorative time this weekend and that you are doing ok.

A couple of quick updates and an ask as we go into week 3 of the shutdown:

- **Family Practical and Emotional Needs Survey.** This is being done weekly so we can track emerging needs. It's really important you can tell me what you are seeing and hearing from families each week so I can get the right solutions in place. Even if your answers are the same as last week, this is still helpful. Please can you complete this weeks survey by Wednesday. [FAMILY PRACTICAL AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS SURVEY W/C 6 APRIL](#)
- **Free School Meals.** The government has introduced an e-supermarket voucher scheme for families eligible for free school meals. Some Camden schools are participating, others may be making their own arrangements. I have uploaded guidance about this onto the COVID Guidebook (see 'Food' section, then 'FSM'), link here [FSCF COVID GUIDEBOOK LINK](#) . Free school meals are available during the Easter holidays which started today.
- **Thinking about Loss and Bereavement.** I have uploaded a number of resources and links onto COVID Guidebook to support families who experience the loss of a loved one during COVID. See section 'Keeping Families Emotionally Well'. Whilst we may not need this immediately, it feels right that we prepare ourselves so we are ready with the right help and support. Remember that our friends in educational psychology have experience in supporting school communities around grief and bereavement, so please do draw on their skills and expertise if or when you need them.
- **Laptop Loans.** As expected these have been extremely popular. We have one left in the current stock, but another 26 on the way this week through Adult and Community Learning. I am also working out a plan with Camden Learning procurement to secure a further 200 laptops or ipads. If one of your families needs a laptop, please let them know there will be a short delay while we get more stock but we will do our very best to get something to them as soon as possible.
- Finally, this **guide for parents** written by trauma specialist Dr Bruce Perry might be helpful to you in your conversations with parents, especially as the weeks go by https://www.psychologytoday.com/ca/blog/pulling-through/202004/the-pandemic-toolkit-parents-need?amp%20twitter_impression=true . Lots more on this in the 'Keeping Parents Emotionally Well' section of the COVID Guidebook.

I will keep in touch during the week with more updates. As always, please do reach out if there is anything you need.

Becca

Becca Dove
Head of Family Support and Complex Families
Early Intervention and Prevention
Supporting People
London Borough of Camden