

COVID Email Update 7 September 2020

Good morning to you all, I hope you and your own families are all doing ok. This feels like another key moment in the COVID crisis, as children of all ages (my two included) return to school full time. If you have children who returned to school or nursery today, I was thinking of you and I hope it went as smoothly as possible. Camden schools began their return last week, and we are in regular contact with school staff to make sure our connections and networks stay strong for families over the coming weeks.

We will be monitoring referral rates closely as we anticipate a rise in requests for early help family work, and we of course need to stay vigilant and prepared for any response to COVID cases in schools either in Camden or in your home borough or county. Let's continue to take a day at a time.

Updates for you this week:

Schools Contacts List

A reminder that there is a full list of contact details for leads at every Camden school, including DSLs, attendance leads, educational psychologists, SENCOs and SEN case workers on the Guidebook here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/contact-details-for-camden-schools/#main>

This Weeks Webinar - Emotional Based School Avoidance and COVID

A reminder that this weeks webinar is on emotionally based school avoidance and COVID, led by EPs Katie Partridge and Ellie Hayes on Thursday at 1pm. Let me know if you need the invite again, it should be an incredibly helpful session to help us think about helping children finding the return to school challenging, or when school doesn't feel like a safe place.

New Secure Bike Storage Around the Borough

For anyone cycling to work, or who fancy trying cycling to work, Camden has installed 35 new bike storage spaces around the Borough. These are places to store your bike securely when you are on a visit. You can find more information here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/parking-and-transport-for-workers/bikes-for-key-workers/#main>

Before and After School Clubs Back Open

Most of the Camden play providers are planning to reopen their before-and-after school clubs again either today or 14 September. For more information see here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/before-and-after-school-clubs/#main>

Turn 2 Us Online Benefits Calculator

Although Welfare Rights is our first port of call for helping families work out what benefits they are entitled to, you can also use this online Benefits Calculator from Turn 2 Us. The results page will tell you which means-tested benefits and tax credits the family may be entitled to and how much they may receive. You can find the Benefits Calculator here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/employment-income-and-benefits/universal-credit-and-benefits/#main>

Weekly Survey

The weekly survey is open for you to let me know about any emerging family needs, and to tell me how the return to face-to-face work is going for you and for families. This weeks survey link is here [FSCF FAMILY NEEDS SURVEY W/C 7 SEPTEMBER](#)

New information uploaded to the COVID Guidebook this week link here <https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/>

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| <p>Parcel Force Join DV Safe Space Scheme</p> <p>Parcel Force have joined Morrisons, Boots and Superdrug in the Safe Space for victims of DV scheme. Parcel Force are offering an online way to access an untraceable link to DV advice and support</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/conflict-or-violence-in-the-home/safe-spaces-in-boots-morrisons-and-superdrug/#main</p> | <p>Turn 2 Us Benefits Calculator</p> <p>An online calculator to help families work out what benefits and tax credits they may be entitled to, and how much they may receive.</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/employment-income-and-benefits/universal-credit-and-benefits/#main</p> | <p>Lenny and Lily Return to School Wordless Story Book</p> <p>These lovely, free to download story books can help children make sense of their experiences during the coronavirus pandemic, communicate their feelings and prepare for more change as they go back to the classroom. As the stories are told in pictures alone, it is not necessary for children to be able to read words to enjoy them.</p> <p>https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/early-help-guide/family-early-help-covid-guidebook/schools/returning-to-school-govt-advice-for-parents/#main</p> |
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We are now in week 25 of COVID, and our capacity and referral rate continues to hold steady. It has now been a month since we started to return gently and gradually to face-to-face work; I am coming along to your team meetings this month to find out from you how this has been going, your experiences of using 5PS again, and to learn whether there is anything else/different/more of/less of that you and families need. Looking forward to seeing you all then.

Becca

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