

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

Spring is nearly here and it's already half-term! It's hard to believe that the children have now completed almost half of this school year. I hope you all enjoy the half-term break (12th - 16th February). Remember Monday, 19th February is an INSET day so the school will be closed.

Lent

We are almost in the season of Lent, a wonderful time of renewal. As you know Lent began on Ash Wednesday 14th February.



Maybe these weeks of Lent could be a time for us to make a big effort to change and grow as we get ready for the feast of the Resurrection of Christ.

Spring Performance - Thank you Year 3!



The children in Year 3 are to be congratulated for their recent and wonderful performance of 'Tattybogle'. All worked hard and co-operated so well to prepare. The singing, dancing and speaking were of such a high quality. We could see from the faces of all in the audience how much parents and friends of the school enjoyed the performances. Thank you very much children for your hard work. Also a sincere thank you to the teachers, teaching assistants and volunteers who spent many hours of their own time planning and preparing and then guiding the children through. Thank you to the parents who helped with practices, scenery and costumes. £176.00 was earned in voluntary contributions for tickets.

Illegal Parking



We had the zig-zag lines outside the school re-painted a few years ago. Although we think they are very visible there are still a number of

adults parking on the zig-zags however generally in order to drop off or collect children from school.

Parents parking on the zig-zags are parking illegally and putting our children in danger. To avoid this please be prepared to come a bit earlier, park legally and walk a little bit with your child if necessary in order to keep the road in front of the school clear. This is also a healthier option as we focus on children having the option to walk a little bit each day especially now that our School Street is in place.

Please try not to park across the driveways of our neighbours on Durants Road, across driveways in the other roads around the school or in the car park which belongs to the Italian Centre and Mary Mother of God. I know the majority of our parents and others who bring children to school don't do this.

Thank you to all who respect the zig-zags and keep them clear.

If you are late for school please do not abandon your child on the road outside. You

must come in to school with your child.



Parents a huge thank you to so many of you for your wonderful support for our School Street. More and more children are walking, cycling or scooting to school. <https://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/SchoolStreets>.



Re-establishing the Friday Penance

As you are aware a key resolution of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, released after their May 2011 plenary meeting, was "to re-establish the practice of Friday penance in the lives of the faithful as a clear and distinctive mark of their own Catholic identity".

This act of common witness formally came into effect on Friday 16th September 2011 (the anniversary of the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the UK). As you know we formally began our practice of not serving meat to the children / staff on

a Friday right from the start of September in 2011. Thank you parents for not including meat as part of your child's packed lunch on a Friday.

Although our children are young we know that you agree that it is good to establish the practices of our faith right from the start. This good habit formed when young will hopefully be part of your child's way of life as he / she grows up. He / she will see abstaining from meat on a Friday as a distinctive mark of his / her Catholic identity.

Parents thank you for your wonderful support with the re-establishment of the Friday penance.

Don't forget to log on to the school website -

stmarysenfield.co.uk

Open Evening

You should have had a call home from the teacher / meeting in school with the teacher during the Open Evening to update you on your child's progress before half-term.

Any parent who wishes to meet in person with the teacher at any stage during this term is welcome to do so. Just contact the school office to arrange a time.

If you would prefer to have a phone call from the teacher to update you on your child's progress and targets please just let the office staff know and they will arrange the time and date of this for you.



School Fund

Each family is asked to make a contribution towards the School / Governors' Fund each year. Your contributions are used to pay towards the costs of repairs and general school maintenance and improvements.

As our school is a voluntary aided school we depend in part for your voluntary donations to fund projects.

Each year if we build, extend or develop the school building in any way, we apply for and thankfully have been lucky enough to receive a capital funding grant from the Government. However in all works (when we receive grant funding) we are required to raise a percentage of the cost of the project ourselves. Over the past few years the school has had many improvements

All of the improvements to the school were of course

completed with the aim of making the learning environment better for our children.

To date we have received £3,545.90 in school fund contributions. Thank you to all who have made contributions. This year we have 246 families in our school. If each family paid its School Fund for one year we would have at least £23,000 in donations! This money would make a real difference to our school and to our provision for the children.

School Fund costs £2.00 per week / £25.00 per term / £76.00 per year for one child. For two children School Fund costs £2.50 per week / £32.00 per term / £95.00 per year.

If you have three children in the school School Fund costs £3.00 per week / £38.00 per term / £114.00 per year.

Developments in the Curriculum

Thinking Hats - Our staff have completed training on Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats for Education. This is a whole school thinking programme which can be used across the curriculum in all subjects.



Dr. de Bono is a pioneer in the teaching of thinking in

education. He has written 60 books in the general area of thinking and his material is used all over the world.

We have re-launched our 'thinking hats' this term. Ask your child to tell you about the different hats.

As you may be aware the school community was awarded (following two days of rigorous assessment by an external assessor) the Dr. Edward de Bono Thinking Schools' Award.

Thinking Maps



Thinking Maps were designed by Dr. David Hyerle in the late 1980's. Hyerle based his ideas on the initial research and development of a model of thinking processes by Dr. Albert Upton. He revised the Upton model as the foundation for Thinking Maps as a set of tools for learning. They are a visual tool to aid thinking. There are eight thinking maps, each based on a fundamental thinking process and used together as a set of tools for showing relationships. We hope that you will have the opportunity to see these maps being used across the curriculum.

Habits of Mind - 'Successful people keep moving. They make

mistakes but never quit' - something Conrad Hilton said. Staff have also received training on 'Habits of Mind' - these are a set of habits or dispositions which focus on developing a mature, independent and successful learner / citizen in the long term. You will recognise many habits of mind immediately as you will have tried or are currently trying to develop these dispositions in your own children. There are sixteen in total. They are:

Persisting,
Managing impulsivity,
Listening with understanding and empathy,
Thinking flexibly,
Metacognition,
Striving for accuracy,
Questioning and posing problems,
Applying past knowledge to new situations,
Thinking and communicating with clarity and precision,
Gathering data through all senses,
Creating, imagining, innovating,
Responding with wonderment and awe,
Taking responsible risks,
Finding humour,
Thinking independently,
Remaining open to continuous learning.



We are again gradually introducing these to the

children. Ask your child if he / she has focused on any of the habits of mind in school. Don't hesitate to ask the teacher about the current habit of mind focus in your child's class / across the school.

Online Safety

Resources for children and young people

As half term approaches, children and young people will spend more time online and many will play games for entertainment over the break.

Band Runner is a fun way for 8-10s to learn about safer use of technology.

They will learn to:

- distinguish between safe and unsafe behaviours online
- feel more confident to seek help from a trusted adult when they need it
- understand how they can use our 8-10s website to seek advice and support

The game can be accessed on the 8-10s

website: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk /8_10](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10)

Instagram introduces 'quiet mode'

Instagram Quiet Mode: A New Way to Manage Your Time and Focus.

Instagram wants its users, especially teenagers to be able to focus and set boundaries with their friends and followers.

Once 'quiet mode' is enabled users won't receive any notifications, their profiles activity status will change to let people know, and automatically an auto-reply will be sent when someone them.

<https://www.kidsonlineworld.com/shareables.html>

What is Doxing? - South West Grid for Learning

What do young people want to be? Well, as I'm sure you're aware many of your children are now aiming to become YouTubers, DJs and TikTok stars.

For many these dreams will fade, as they mature into older students and want to break out from beyond the screen into the real world. But all their online activity, from posting video clips to dropping a

soundtrack on a Spotify account will remain forever.

This opens a vulnerability window that will never close, as the internet is plagued with individuals who will seek to do harm to the media poster in question. Whether for financial gain or just because they feel like it, online spectators can easily find out key details about an individual's life. Their place of work, their home address and their identity.

But what happens, when these malicious spectators decide to publish this information publicly rather than harvesting it for themselves? Over at the South West Grid for Learning, they've written an article answering that question. If interested, please follow the link below:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/what-is-doxing-a-guide-for-professionals-parents-and-carers/>

What is mental health?

We all have mental health. Mental health is about our feelings, our thinking, our emotions and our moods.

Looking after our mental health is important. We all have small feelings every day: These sometimes feel strong and overwhelming, whether

happy or sad, but they go away before too long.

Sometimes we experience big feelings: These feel strong and overwhelming for a long time. They stop us doing what we want to in our lives.

Young Minds also has a parent helpline:
<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

Christian Meditation

As you know the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) has worked to develop videos which provide short meditation sessions which children and young people can participate in, whether in school or at home. These sessions are inspired by meditation in the tradition of John Main OSB.

Full details are available here: <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/meditation-with-children-young-people/>

Holidays and Absences

I would urge you to try not to book holidays during term time as time away from school can unsettle children and affect their progress.

Any requests for time off (for special circumstances only please) must be put in writing to the Headteacher.

It is not school policy to provide homework for time off

which is taken during term time.

We are required to ask for a written note to explain any absence from school and to report all absences.

Please remember that your child's absence from school affects our total absence figures. It was 5.9% at the end of the last school year (6% nationally) Our absence was 5.68% at the end of the autumn term and 5.34% up to the 2nd February 2024.

Well done everyone for trying your best in these times which are still a bit more challenging for all families trying to cope with these coughs and colds which seem to be around at the moment.

Our absence level is higher than in past years but with time this should improve.

Up to the end of Autumn 2023, the class with the highest attendance over the term was Year 3, St. Bernadette (97.57%) closely followed by Year 5/6, St. Joseph (97.14%), Year 5, St. Anthony (95.68%) and Reception, Hope (95.44%).

Please (unless of course your child is ill) ensure your child is in school each day.

The DfE's persistent absence threshold is 10% (from Autumn 2015)!

The DfE's guidance on the 2014/15 school census explains that from the 2015/2016 academic year onwards, a pupil will be considered to be persistently absent if he/she is away for over 10% of school sessions in an academic year.

Pages 72-73 of the DfE's guidance, linked to above, contains a table which sets out the estimated thresholds that will be used to define persistently absent pupils.

	15 per cent	10 per cent
Half-term 1	10 or more sessions	7 or more sessions
Half term 1-2 (autumn term)	22 or more sessions	14 or more sessions
Half term 1-3	30 or more sessions	20 or more sessions
Half-term 1-4 (autumn term and spring term combined)	38 or more sessions	25 or more sessions
Half term 1-5	46 or more sessions	31 or more sessions

Half term 56 or 38 or
1-6 (full more more
academic sessions sessions
year)

Spring Term Reminder!

Don't forget the pattern of the Easter holidays this year.

Half -term holiday = 12th - 16th February 2024.

INSET Day (no school for children) = 19th February 2024.

Easter Holiday = 29th March - 12th April 2024.



Summer Term Reminder!

School opens for the summer term on Monday 15th April 2024.

Half -term holiday = 27th May - 31st May 2024.

May Bank Holiday= Monday 6th May 2024.

INSET Day (no school for children) = 7th May 2024.

Last Day of the School Year = 19th July 2024.

In the autumn term 96 children had 100% attendance. Well done children and parents!

Tissues

We have very few tissues and hundreds of runny noses! We are no longer able to afford to provide tissues for classrooms. Donations of boxes of tissues would be so very gratefully received. If your child has a cold please try to send some tissues to school in his / her school bag.

School Uniform

Try very hard to ensure your child wears the correct uniform.

Some pupils (a very small few) are not wearing the correct colours in their hair or stud earrings. One or two are wearing trainers instead of shoes. This really is not acceptable. Our uniform is part of our identity as St. Mary's School.

Thank you to the majority of parents who always encourage their children to wear the right uniform neatly in school every day.

Remember!

Try very hard to ensure your child is on time for school i.e. in the classroom before 9am when school begins

Sickness



We have been advised by the London Borough of Enfield that any child who has been sick must not return to school for 48 hours. Unfortunately there are some nasty bugs still going around at the moment. Please support us in helping them not to spread.

Also on occasions parents have reported finding nits in their child's hair. Unfortunately these are easily spread and can be quite difficult to eradicate. We would appreciate it if you could check your child's hair. Please also ensure that all long hair is tied back at all times.

We have also seen the occasional case of ringworm. Please check any unusual rashes and encourage your child to wash his / her hands thoroughly.

Volunteers

A sincere thank you to all who have volunteered to help in classes and with various activities in school. We really value the time and support you give to children and staff. Remember if you have time to spare that we always need volunteers. All who work in classes must be police / DBS checked for the safety of all children at St. Mary's.

Please encourage your child to leave all toys, football cards, jewellery, mobile phones etc. at home. Children become very upset if their personal belongings are lost or broken at school.

Recycling!

We are still recycling shoes too. Send in any old pairs.

Home School Agreement

Thank you to the great number of parents who have already returned their child's Home School Agreement. Remember if you haven't already done so to read, sign and return one of the copies as soon as possible (you should have received two copies - one is for you to keep at home). If you need a new copy just ask at the Office.

We are trying to learn / say The Angelus each day at 12 noon in the Junior classes. This is a wonderful prayer which reminds us that God the Son became man in order to save us.

You might like to say this prayer with your child at home. It can be said in the morning, at noon or in the evening.

The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

Behold the handmaid of the Lord:
Be it done to me according to your word.

Hail Mary...

And the Word was made Flesh:
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray.

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may be brought by his passion and cross to the glory of his resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the divine assistance remain always with us and may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

These are the prayers we say each day with the children. You might like to say these prayers with your child at home. It's good practice to have a little quiet prayer time each day. I know many of you already encourage your child to pray at home.

Morning Offering

O My God, you love me,
You are with me night and day.
I want to love you always in all I do and say.
I'll try to please you Father.
Bless me through the day. Amen

Night Prayer

God our Father, I come to say,
Thank you for your love today.

Thank you for my family,
And all the things you give to me.
Guard me in the dark of night.
And in the morning send your light.
Amen.

Grace Before Meals

Bless us O Lord as we sit together,
Bless the food we eat today.
Bless the hands that make the food.
Bless us O Lord. Amen.

Grace After Meals

Thank you God, for the food we have eaten,
Thank you God for all our friends.
Thank you God for everything,
Thank you God. Amen.

Our School Prayer

This is our school.
May we all live here
Happily together.
May our school be full of joy.
May love dwell here among us
Every day.

Love of one another,
Love of all people everywhere,
Love of life itself,
And love of God.

Let us all remember that
As many hands build a house,
So every child
Can make this school
A lovely place. Amen

Phone calls

Your child is welcome to phone home (in emergency only). We would welcome a voluntary contribution towards the cost

of any phone calls your child makes.



Play Equipment

Parents please support the school by not allowing your children (including toddlers) to play on the playground equipment at the end of the school day. This request is made purely for health and safety reasons.

Children are also asked not to cycle or use their scooters / bicycles / tricycles while on the playground after school. As the area is very crowded it is easier and safer for all if children walk with their bikes or scooters until they leave the school premises.

Parents / childminders please keep your children with you once you have collected them from the classroom / teacher.

Thank you as always to the great number of parents who are very supportive of all school requests. We have only noticed a minority of pupils doing the wrong thing this school year. With the support of their parents or child minders this will easily be sorted out.

Year Group Addresses:

nursery@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

reception@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

year1@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

year2@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

year3@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

year4@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

year5@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

year6@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

Some Dates for Spring 2024

12th - 16th February - Half - Term Holiday. No School!

19th February - INSET Day. No School!

22nd February - Years 4 and 6 classes Mass in School Hall at 9.30am.

29th February - Year 3 classes to Mass at 9.30am.

1st March - St. David's Day - School Mass (Years 2-6 to attend the Mass at 9.30am).

5th March - Ducklings visit St. Mary's.

6th March - Class Photographs

7th March - Mass in School Hall at 9.30am. Years 3 and 5 to attend.

18th March - Year 4 Production AM (parents with babies and toddlers)

19th March - Feast of St. Joseph, School Mass (Years 3-6 to attend the Mass

20th March - Year 4 Production AM (adults).

Year 2 classes to parish Mass at 9.30am.

26th March - Year 4 classes to parish Mass at 9.30am.

27th March - End of Term School Mass (Years 2-6 to attend the Mass).

End of Term Class Parties PM.

28th March - Maundy Thursday - Last day of Spring Term. Own Clothes' Day. **Early Closing at 12.45pm EYFS and Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 at 1pm.** Holidays begin until **15th April.**

Good Friday - 29th March

Holy Saturday - 30th March

Easter Sunday - 31st March

British Summer Time begins. Clocks go forward 1 hour!

Monday 15th April - Summer Term begins!

On occasions it is necessary to change dates. I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.



Best Wishes

Thank you for your continued support both for me and for the staff of St. Mary's. It is greatly appreciated.

Miss M Creed
Headteacher



[Half term activities for children | Enfield Council](#)

Dear Parent

Measles cases are rising across the country, with over 102,000 children starting primary school in England being at risk of catching the disease.

Please see guidance below:

[\[http://National%20measles%20guidelines%20-%20GOV.UK%20\(www.gov.uk\)\]](http://National%20measles%20guidelines%20-%20GOV.UK%20(www.gov.uk)])
[National measles guidelines - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Measles is highly infectious and if left unvaccinated nine out of ten children in an early years setting can catch the disease if just one child is infectious.

Kind Regards
Hulya Salih
Engagement and Brokerage
Adviser, Enfield Council



<https://saisenfield.co.uk/parents-and-guardians-page/>

Vaccination Clinics - Baytree House

15th February 2024 (9am - 3:00pm)

Ordnance Unity for Health

12th February 2024 (9am - 3:00pm)

Evergreen Surgery

4th February 2024 (9am - 3:00pm)

Enfield Island Surgery

14th February 2023 (9am - 3:00pm)

ADMISSIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024

Due to the fact that there are now fewer pupils in London (there is a continued decrease in the population of children) and the issues with finding affordable housing we currently have places in our Nursery, Reception, Years 1, 2 and 4 2023-2024 year groups.

Thank you parents for recommending our school and helping to build up our pupil numbers. Please continue to do this.



Prayer -From Parent to Child

I gave you life, but cannot live it for you.
I can teach you things, but I cannot make you learn.
I can give you attention, but I cannot be there to lead you.
I can teach you right from wrong, but I cannot always decide for you.
I can buy you beautiful clothes, but I cannot make you beautiful inside.
I can offer you advice but I cannot accept it for you.
I can teach you to share, but I cannot make you unselfish.
I can tell you about lofty goals, but I can't achieve them for you.
I can teach you about kindness, but I can't force you to be gracious.
I can love you as a child and I can pray for you.
I can teach you about Jesus and I can show you how to walk in the footsteps of the Lord.

THE SEASON OF LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 14th February 2024

Programme

8.30am: Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am—Morning Mass

12.30pm—Lunchtime Mass

6.30pm : Evening Prayer & Rosary

7.30pm—Sung Evening Mass



Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all Masses

*Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence -
we refrain from eating meat (a discipline)*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During the Season of Lent
we will follow the Stations of the
Cross on Thursday mornings after
the 9.30am Mass
and also after the 7.30pm
Evening Mass on Fridays.
Please, do try and join us on at
least a couple of occasions.



Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday – Wednesday 14th February 2024



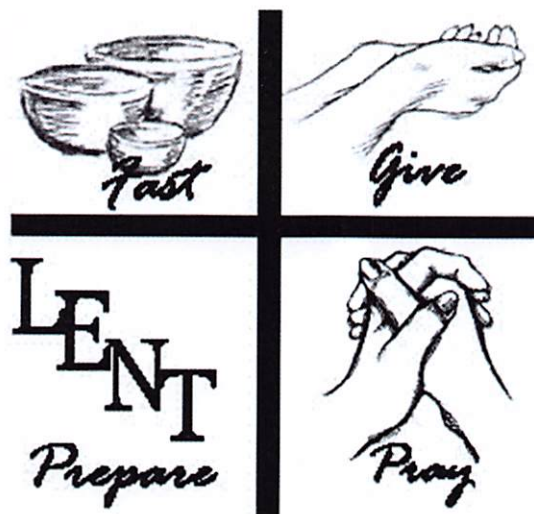
This year Ash Wednesday (first day of the season of Lent which is a preparation for the season of Easter) falls during term time. Ash Wednesday is a day of **fasting** and **abstinence**.

Every year when Ash Wednesday falls during term time all pupils and staff (Years 2-6) attend Mass and receive ashes. Children and staff in Year 1, Nursery and Reception have services in school and receive ashes which have been blessed by Father John at Mass. This year, as Ash Wednesday falls during the half-term holiday, you will have to consider taking your own children to Mass to receive ashes.

The ashes which are used on Ash Wednesday come from the branches of the olive tree or, according to custom, of the palm tree which were blessed the previous year. These are burnt to create the ashes which we receive in the form of a cross shape on our foreheads.



For us Lent (*Quadragesima* – the 40 days) is a time of spiritual spring cleaning. It is a time when God draws near to heal and restore our lives. Thus receiving ashes is an essential part of our preparation for Easter as Catholics.



Dies Cinerum, or Ash Wednesday as it is now called, used to be the beginning of a long public penance for those Christians who had either been excommunicated (had to leave the Church) or barred from the sacraments. Bishops would bless sackcloth for these people to wear during the 40 days leading up to Easter – outward signs representing inner repentance. After the 40 days of penance and sacramental confession they were welcomed back home and reunited in Christ and his Church.

During the Council of Beneventum in 1091, Pope Urban 11 decreed that ashes should be received by all the faithful at the beginning of Lent and that all should join in the public act of repentance.



This Ash Wednesday and Lent, we will accept the ashes of penance and mourning as outward signs of our inward repentance. But let us also as Christ teaches, be seen to rejoice and to be cheerful again as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Resurrection at Easter.

The three Lenten practices of **prayer**, **fasting** and **alms-giving** help to discipline our bodies, minds and spirits.

Prayer

This discipline requires the sacrifice of time and sometimes in Lent it is a good idea to get up a little bit earlier to ensure there is time in the day for prayer. Prayer helps to bring us closer to God and strengthens our hearts against temptation.



Jesus Prays in the Garden
John 17:1-26

Fasting and Abstinence

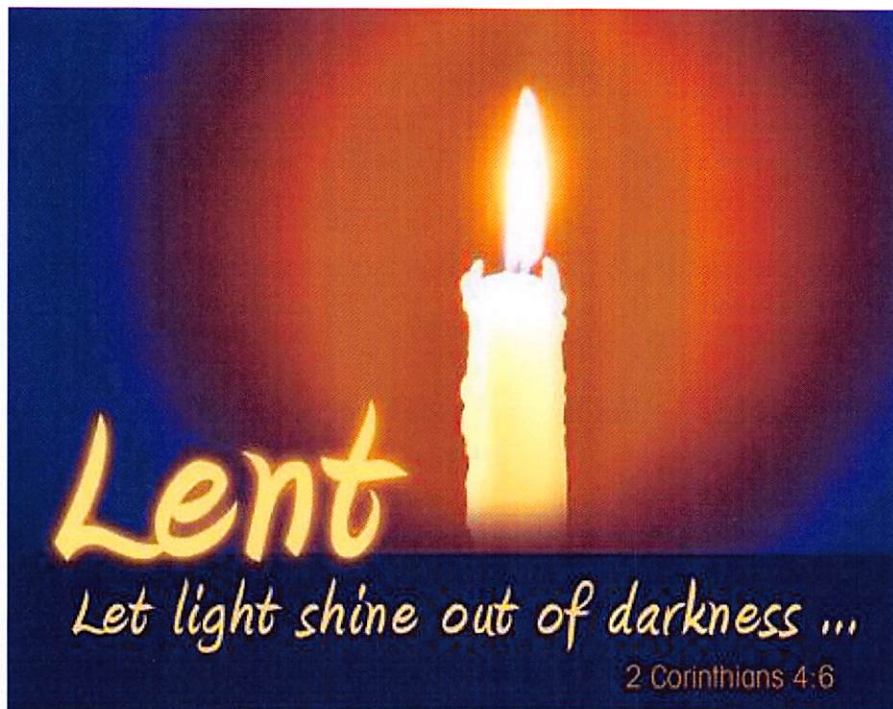
Fasts train our bodies which can be prone to self-indulgence. By fasting we use the gift of self-control. By controlling our wants we concentrate on the most basic of needs. As hard as not eating chocolate, drinking alcohol etc. is, fasting is nothing compared to the suffering of so many in the world.

The bishops of England and Wales recognize that simple acts of witness, accompanied by sincere prayer, can be a powerful call to faith. Traditional Catholic devotions such as making the sign of the cross with care and reverence, praying the Angelus and saying a prayer before and after meals, are straightforward actions which both dedicate certain moments in our daily lives to God and demonstrate our love and trust in his goodness and providence. If these devotions have been lost from our homes we have much to gain from learning and living them again.

Every Friday is set aside as a special day of penitence, as it is the day of the suffering and death of the Lord. It is important that all of us are united in a common, identifiable act of Friday penance since the virtue of penitence is best acquired as part of a common resolve and witness. The law of the Church requires Catholics on Fridays to abstain from meat and unite this act to prayer. Those who cannot or choose not to eat meat as part of their normal diet should abstain from some other food of which they regularly partake. This decision came into effect on Friday 16th September 2011.

On a Friday our prayer is in thanksgiving for the gift of the mortal life that we have been given; a life which Christ willingly sacrificed on the cross for our sake. The act of abstinence itself can be offered consciously as prayer for life and as reparation for sins against life. It can also be put to the service of others if we make a sacrifice and give the financial savings made from our abstinence to charities which assist those who are poor or suffering. If we are unable to make that financial sacrifice, we can still perform a 'work of charity', an act of kindness and love to another person who is in need or suffering in some way.

Canon 1251 states that abstinence from eating meat or another food according to the prescriptions of the Conference of Bishops is to be observed on Fridays throughout the year unless they are solemnities. Abstinence and fast are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday.



Alms-giving

Giving to the poor 'is not charity but justice' (St. Augustine of Hippo). All things belong to God and he desires that the good things of the earth be shared. It is our Christian mission to share, to rejoice in giving and not count the cost as the community of Apostles and early Christians once did (Acts 2: 44-45). By being generous we are given the freedom to love and room is made in our hearts for God's love, grace and peace.



Online Safety Newsletter February 2024

Setting up parental controls on your child's mobile

If you do not have the same mobile phone as your child, and therefore are unable to use Google Family link or Apple Family Sharing, then you can set restrictions on your child's device instead.

Apple devices:

To set up restrictions on your child's device directly (rather than using an app) then follow the instructions on the link below:

<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201304>

The instructions will show you how to get to the settings on your child's phone and then how to set restrictions such as restrict content, schedule downtime, set time limits for apps. You will need to set a passcode 'use a screentime passcode' to ensure changes cannot be made after you have set them.

Android devices:

As with the above link, this link shows you how to set up parental controls on the device itself by creating a PIN:

<https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738?hl=en-GB#zippy=%2Cfor-family-members-who-manage-their-own-accounts>

PlayStation

Does your child have a PlayStation? If so, have you set up appropriate parental controls? Some examples of the parental controls available are:

- Set age restrictions,
- Set daily limits,
- Control chat and messaging,
- Set spend limits.



How can I block/report other players?

If your child is playing with other players, then please ensure they know how to report/block other players and to tell a trusted adult if they do come across anything upsetting or that they are unsure of. This link details how to do this based on the device they have:

<https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/block-players-psn/>

What games are suitable for my child?

PlayStation have included a list of games along with their age rating to help you find a game that may be appropriate for your child to play.

<https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/editorial/great-ps4-games-for-kids-and-families/>

Whilst age ratings do allow you to see if a game may be appropriate, it is also important to review the game yourself and see if it includes additional features such as chat. This will allow you to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable and if you need to apply further parental controls.

Further information

You can find out more about the controls available here:

<https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/parental-controls/>

YouTube Shorts

You should be over 13 to post videos on YouTube. YouTube Shorts are short videos which are similar in format to videos you find on TikTok or Instagram Reels. 'Shorts' are available to watch on the YouTube homepage or on the Shorts tab in the app. As they are quick to watch, they can be addictive and lead to excessive screen time. If your child is watching these videos, ensure they know that there is a report button. The INEQUE Safeguarding Group discuss this feature in more detail here:

<https://ineqe.com/2021/07/01/youtube-shorts-need-to-know/>

Snapchat: new controls

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. **You must be 13+ to sign up.** Users can send messages (snaps) to others that are only seen for a set time e.g., 10 seconds and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.



You can find out more about Snapchat here: <https://parents.snapchat.com/en-GB>

Family Center: new features

Snapchat are expanding the features available to you in their Family Center, allowing parents to view:

- story settings: you will be able to see who your child is sharing their story with e.g. all their friends or a smaller group.
- contact settings: see who your child can be contacted by (by people they have added as a friend or their phone contacts).
- if your child is sharing their location with friends on the Snap Map.

In addition, you will be able to restrict the use of Snapchat's 'My AI.' You can find out more here:

<https://values.snap.com/en-GB/news/expanding-our-in-app-parental-tools-2024>

More information

The NSPCC provide further information about Snapchat, **the risks involved** with using Snapchat and **tips to help keep your child safe** if they are using Snapchat.

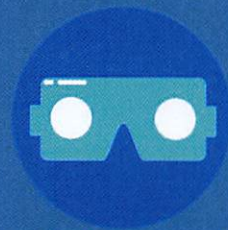
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/is-snapchat-safe-for-my-child/>

At what age can my child start using social networks?

Internet Matters have produced this fantastic resource highlighting the minimum age limits for a variety of social media platforms as well as outlining the risks of being underage on social media. You can find out more here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-age-can-my-child-start-social-networking>

Reality Check from Parent Zone



Most VR Headsets have a minimum age recommendation of 13+ and VR games are rated by PEGI too so check their age rating/suitability.

Parent Zone, VoiceBox and Meta have created a series of videos explaining the safety and parental control tools available when using VR and how to have a conversation with your child about VR. Find out more here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/realitycheck>

Online Safety advice for Early Years

Internet Matters have teamed up with EE to create 'Online Safety Starts Early.' This is a 4-episode series, for those with children in Early Years. Episode one highlights how to create positive habits from the beginning and then provides links to additional resources.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5/online-safety-video-guides-early-years/>

EE Learn

EE Learn includes an array of information and guidance on how to keep your child safe online, for example tips on how to help your child when they are online. Find out more here:

<https://ee.co.uk/do-more-with-ee/learn>

Stir.

W/C: 19th Feb, 11th Mar, 1st Apr, 22nd Apr, 13th May, 3rd June, 24th June, 15th July

week: 01

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

MILD BUTTER CHICKEN (HALAL)
Served with Whole Grain Rice & Carrots

TRADITIONAL BBQ BEEF SLOPPY JOES (HALAL)
Served with Homemade Rainbow Slaw

ROAST TURKEY (HALAL)
Served with Crispy Roasties, Peas & Sweetcorn

HOMEMADE PIZZA MARGHERITA
Served with Roasted Garlic Broccoli

GOLDEN FISH FINGERS
Served with Chips & Sweetcorn

SWEET POTATO CHANA MASALA
Served with Whole Grain Rice & Carrots

BROCCOLI, NEW POTATO & SPINACH FRITTATA
Served with Mixed Salad

REALLY CHEESEY CAULIFLOWER
Served with Crispy Roasties, Peas & Sweetcorn

SQUASH & CHICKPEA TAGINE
Served with Couscous Roasted Garlic Broccoli

VEGGIE FINGERS
Served with Chips & Baked Beans

JACKET POTATO
with Cheese or Baked Beans

JACKET POTATO
with Cheese or Baked Beans

JACKET POTATO
with Cheese or Baked Beans

JACKET POTATO
with Cheese or Baked Beans

JACKET POTATO
with Cheese or Baked Beans

PENNE PASTA WITH TOMATO SAUCE

PENNE PASTA WITH TOMATO SAUCE

PENNE PASTA WITH TOMATO SAUCE

PENNE PASTA WITH TOMATO SAUCE

PENNE PASTA WITH TOMATO SAUCE

OATIE COOKIE

JELLY & FRUIT SLICES

BLUEBERRY & ORANGE TRAYBAKE

PINEAPPLE UPSIDE DOWN TRAYBAKE

FRUIT SALAD BOWLS

SEASONAL VEGETABLES, SALAD BAR, FRESH BREAD, YOGHURT AND FRUIT ARE AVAILABLE DAILY

menu

let's eat, together

www.stirfood.co.uk

Stir.

W/C: 26th Feb, 18th Mar, 8th Apr, 29th Apr, 20th May, 10th June, 1st July, 22nd July

week: 02

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

PIRI PIRI CHICKEN (HALAL)
Served with Vegetable Wholegrain Rice & Broccoli

HOMEMADE PIZZA MARGHERITA
Served with Homemade Coleslaw & Green Salad

ROAST CHICKEN (HALAL)
Served with Crispy Roasties, Carrots & Sweetcorn

CHICKEN CHOW MEIN (HALAL)
Served with Egg Noodles & Green Beans

GOLDEN FISH FINGERS
Served with Chips & Baked Beans

FIVE BEAN VEGETARIAN CHILLI
Served with Wholegrain Rice & Broccoli

SPRING VEGETABLE TART
Served with Homemade Coleslaw & Green Salad

SUMMER VEGETABLE BEAN CASSEROLE
Served with Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Carrots

CREAMY COURGETTE LASAGNE
Served with Mixed Salad

VEGETABLE FINGERS
Served with Chips & Baked Beans

JACKET POTATO
with Cheese or Baked Beans

JACKET POTATO
with Cheese or Baked Beans

JACKET POTATO
with Cheese or Baked Beans

JACKET POTATO
with Cheese or Baked Beans

JACKET POTATO
with Cheese or Baked Beans

PENNE PASTA WITH TOMATO SAUCE

PENNE PASTA WITH TOMATO SAUCE

PENNE PASTA WITH TOMATO SAUCE

PENNE PASTA WITH TOMATO SAUCE

PENNE PASTA WITH TOMATO SAUCE

BUTTERMILK PANCAKES & FRUIT SAUCE

JAMMY CRUMBLE BARS

FRUIT BOWLS

APPLE & CINNAMON SLICE

SHORTBREAD BISCUITS

SEASONAL VEGETABLES, SALAD BAR, FRESH BREAD, YOGHURT AND FRUIT ARE AVAILABLE DAILY

menu

let's eat, together

www.stirfood.co.uk

Stir.

**W/C: 4th Mar, 25th Mar, 15th Apr, 6th May, 27th
May, 17th June, 8th July, 29th July**

week: 03

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

**GARLIC CHICKEN
(HALAL)
Served with
Penne Pasta
& Green Beans**

**BEEF CON CARNE
(HALAL)
Served with
Wholegrain Rice and
Mixed Salad**

**ROAST CHICKEN
(HALAL)
Served with
Crispy Roasties,
Carrots & Sweetcorn**

**HOMEMADE PIZZA
MARGHERITA
Served with
Rustic Italian Potato Salad**

**GOLDEN FISH
FINGERS
(Salmon or Pollock)
Served with
Chips &
Garden Peas**

**MAC N CHEESE
WITH A CRISPY
CRUMB TOPPING
Served with
Green Beans**

**BEAN & SWEETCORN
BURRITO
Served with
Mixed Salad**

**SUPER VEGGIE
PASTRY PIE
(Lentil & Onion) (Vg)
Served with
Crispy Roasties,
Carrots & Sweetcorn**

**GOAN CAULIFLOWER &
GREEN BEAN CURRY
Served with
Whole Grain Rice
& Broccoli**

**VEGETABLE
SLOPPY JOES
Served with
Chips & Baked Beans**

**JACKET POTATO
with Cheese or
Baked Beans**

**JACKET POTATO
with Cheese or
Baked Beans**

**JACKET POTATO
with Cheese or
Baked Beans**

**JACKET POTATO
with Cheese or
Baked Beans**

**JACKET POTATO
with Cheese or
Baked Beans**

**PENNE PASTA WITH
TOMATO SAUCE**

**PENNE PASTA WITH
TOMATO SAUCE**

**PENNE PASTA WITH
TOMATO SAUCE**

**PENNE PASTA WITH
TOMATO SAUCE**

**PENNE PASTA WITH
TOMATO SAUCE**

MELON SELECTION

SPRINKLE CAKE

CORNFLAKE TART

**VANILLA
ICE CREAM CUP**

**GINGERBREAD
COOKIES**

SEASONAL VEGETABLES, SALAD BAR, FRESH BREAD, YOGHURT AND FRUIT ARE AVAILABLE DAILY

menu

let's eat, together

www.stirfood.co.uk

FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY: 12th February-16th February 2024

With February half term just around the corner, it's time to get the kids sorted for the holidays. Let them burn off some energy, make new friends and have some fun at Southbury Leisure centre.

In partnership with Enfield council, Better Enfield will be hosting a plethora of activity over the half term at Southbury Leisure Centre and all of which will be free of charge for participants. There will also be an array of free hot meals on offer for all children partaking in activities across the week.

The link for timetabled activities on offer across the week is as follows:

<https://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/london/enfield/southbury-leisure-centre/news/make-a-splash-this-half-term-at-southbury-leisure-centre>

All sessions have limited capacity, so book now to avoid disappoint.

Please note, that all participants must register their children's details prior to booking.

To book a Swim school short course place, please pop into Southbury Leisure centre and book with one of our concierge team.

To book Swim for all or Junior Gym please use the link on the website.

Please note Swim for all sessions are under 'Open Day- Swim for all' & Junior Gym sessions are under 'Open Day-Gym sessions'.

The free soft play sessions are bookable in centre only.

For all lessons and courses enquiries please go to **www.better.org.uk/book-lesson**

All centre rules and regulations apply.

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

If you have any questions prior to booking, please speak to a member of staff at Southbury Leisure centre.

We look forward to welcoming you at Southbury Leisure Centre.

February 2024 Half Term Cycle Training

Join us this half term



journeys
& places

ENFIELD
Council



Journeys and Places are offering FREE February half term Learn to Ride and Basic Cycle Skills sessions for various age groups from Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February.

Sessions will take place at Raglan Primary School (Amberley Road Entrance), Wellington Road, Enfield, EN1 2NS.

For more information and to book your child's place please visit

www.bookwhen.com/enfieldcycling

**journeys
& places**



Join us this half term

journeysandplaces.enfield.gov.uk



REVISED PLACEMENT POLICY - OUR DUTY TO MAKE YOU A SINGLE OFFER

NEED FOR THE NEW POLICY

Due to changes in the housing market, there is a severe shortage of accommodation for private rent in London and the southeast of England. This means:

- Like other London boroughs, Enfield is struggling to find rented homes to use as temporary accommodation or settled homes for homeless households.
- We have had to use hotels which are not ideal for families.
- It is especially hard to find affordable homes for people on benefits or a low income.
- Recent rent rises are not covered by Local Housing Allowance (LHA) which is used to work out how much Housing Benefit households receive. LHA has been frozen since 2020.
- Rising rents and the cost of living mean many more people are asking us to help them.

WHAT'S CHANGED?

We can only place homeless households where there is affordable accommodation. So, going forward, the majority of homes that are offered will be private rented accommodation outside London and the southeast of England. They will be in locations where rents and LHA rates are more closely aligned and so are affordable for residents.

We are committed to making the experience of homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring. This new placement policy will make it possible for people to afford to rent a secure and decent home more quickly. There is a relocation assistance package in place (see page 3 for details).

The new policy does not apply to people who have secured their own rented accommodation independently or via a Council support scheme. These support schemes will be available to assist homeless households under the new policy. (See page 2 for details). [Visit our website](#) to read the policy and see our FAQs on page 4.

CURRENT HOUSING PRESSURES IN NUMBERS



c.3,100
living in
Temporary
Accommodation



c.250
families in
hotels



c.400
new requests for
Council help a
month

Average monthly private rent for 2-bed home*



£1,510
Enfield



£733
Peterborough



£631
East Staffs



£520
North
Lincolnshire

*Average monthly rents in 2022 for illustrative purposes only. Source: ONS



www.enfield.gov.uk



Find Your Own Home Scheme

An opportunity for you to find suitable, affordable housing for private rent

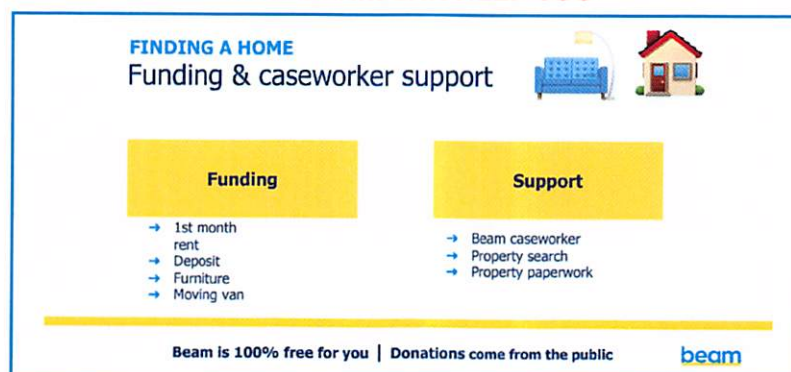
How do I know if I am eligible?	The benefits for you and support available
You are living in emergency or temporary accommodation	Opportunity for a fresh start and new home
You have found a private rent property that you like	Flexibility and choice of where you want to live - UK wide
You are in receipt of Housing Benefit or Universal Credit	Training on how to sustain your tenancy, manage your money and secure employment
You need financial help with upfront costs	One month's rent paid in advance, one month's deposit (or an incentive paid directly to landlord or agent) – and help with relocation costs
The property is affordable for you.	Practical support to help you secure the private rent home of your choice such as rent negotiation and document checking
The property passes our checks that it is safe, and you can afford to rent it	Aftercare service to help you sustain your tenancy

You don't have to register for the scheme if you meet our eligibility conditions (above). However, do not pay any money or sign any agreements without contacting your caseworker first. They can sort out the tenancy agreement on your behalf – and payments such as a deposit or rent in advance. If you have found a property email: housingsolutions@enfield.gov.uk and add the words 'Found a Property' to the subject line.

Our partnership with Beam to help you find a new home outside London

Beam is a social enterprise that supports people into jobs and homes. It does this through its innovative crowdfunding platform and personalised support. Crowdfunding is where a group of people raise money online for a cause – in Beam's case to help homeless people.

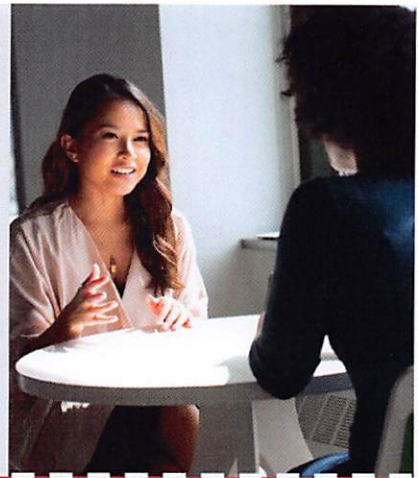
HOW BEAM CAN HELP YOU



Speak to your Housing Solutions Service caseworker for more information or visit our partnership page <https://beam.org/enfield> on the Beam website.



A RELOCATION TO A NEW AREA



If you are unable to secure a private rental home of your choice, the Council will find one for you in a part of the country that is affordable for people on low incomes. You will not be offered a choice of location.

We will make you one offer of accommodation before discharging our duty towards you.

Three-quarters of homeless households who move away from their local area report a positive impact on their life including improved mental health, according to a Homefinder UK survey. The study of 690 applicants by lettings service Homefinder UK found that the leading reasons people wanted to move away were long stays in temporary accommodation, homelessness or the threat of it, and fleeing domestic abuse. Of those moving out of their area into a permanent social home, 73% stated they were happy and settled in their new environment. Improved mental health and well-being was said to be the top benefit, followed by the right size of home and lower rents.

Our relocation assistance package will help you to make the move to an affordable, decent home and put down roots in a new community.

- ✓ Relocation costs (funded through the Household Support Fund from the Government), available for a limited period only:
 - financial payments to support you with relocation costs
 - deposits and rent in advance
 - help with transport and moving costs
- ✓ And longer-term help with:
 - Supporting relationship with landlord/agent
 - Benefits and income maximisation
 - Employment support
- ✓ Our team will make you one offer of suitable, affordable housing
- ✗ If you do not accept this offer – this will end our duty to house you.

FAQS

HOW WILL THE NEW POLICY AFFECT ME?

Our aim is to stop using hotels as quickly as possible. However, to achieve this the new policy will affect everyone currently in temporary accommodation. Given the severe shortage of rented properties in London and the South East, the following groups are more likely to be made a more local offer of accommodation:

- Households with children in their final year of GCSEs or A levels
- Households with members who are registered carers in receipt of carer's allowance and provide care for a member of the family who is not part of the household but who resides in Enfield
- People who have a severe and enduring physical or mental health condition requiring regular specialist care that a move from Enfield and its vicinity would significantly disrupt.

WHY CAN'T THE COUNCIL SECURE MORE RENTED HOMES TO MEET DEMAND?

We are competing with 21 other London boroughs and the Home Office that all look for homes in Enfield. The Council uses 2,000 homes in the private rented sector locally to house people, but around 6,000 homes in the borough are used by other councils and government departments.

WHY HAS THE COUNCIL HAD TO PLACE HOMELESS HOUSEHOLDS IN HOTELS?

We are committed to reducing the number of families we place in hotels. We know it is incredibly difficult for people living in emergency hotel accommodation as the Council works hard to find long-term homes for them. The whole of London is experiencing a housing crisis. The Council is currently getting around 400 requests for help from residents per month.

WHAT IS THE COUNCIL DOING TO MINIMISE THE USE OF TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION?

We have a number of initiatives including:

- our Find Your Own Home and Beam partnership schemes (see page 2)
- an Ethical Lettings Agency where we acquire homes for private rent – bringing empty homes in the borough back into use
- working with private landlords to improve the quality of houses and tackling poor practices with our private sector licensing scheme
- providing homes and jobs where they are needed the most - where we have the funding to do this
- working with residents early on to help them avoid becoming homeless.

If you have more questions talk to your caseworker, email: housingsolutions@enfield.gov.uk or call 020 8379 4523.



MAYOR OF LONDON

Date: 9 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the new term begins, I wanted to share some fantastic news about my Universal Free School Meals programme – it's extending until the middle of 2025!

As the Mayor of London, I'm so proud we've funded more than 17 million free school meals for around 287,000 primary school children in London since September.

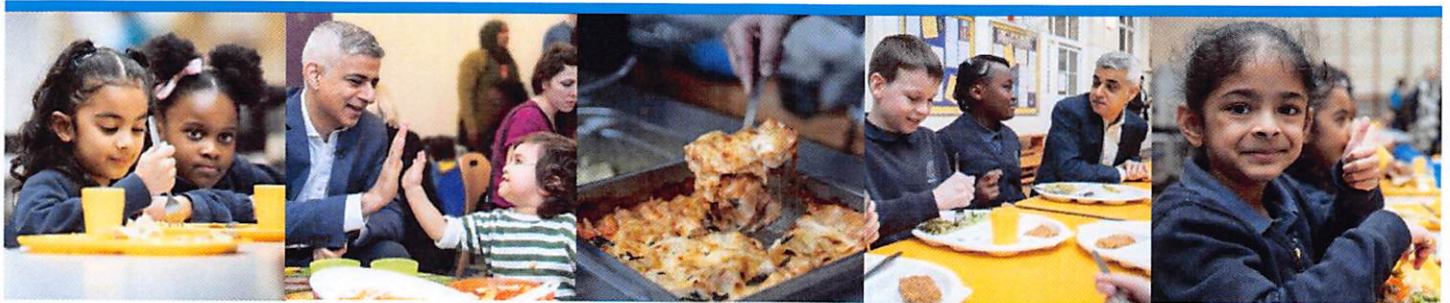
However, I know times are still tough for many Londoners and I am committed to doing all that I can to support families through these difficult times.

I am now extending funding for Universal Free School Meals for another academic school year between September 2024 and July 2025. This means that primary school aged children who attend a state funded school in London will continue to receive a healthy, nutritious meal so that no child goes hungry in the classroom, and all pupils can better concentrate on their studies.

I am also increasing the amount of money boroughs and schools receive to £3 per meal. The grant that I provide is now 18.5% higher than the offer from national Government for Universal Infant Free School Meals.

This extension will provide a safety net for families and could save parents and carers up to £1,000 per child across the two years.

Eating a nutritious meal everyday is hugely beneficial to children and families both in the short and long term. As someone who received free school meals myself growing up, I know they can be a lifeline, helping children to reach their full potential.



City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London E16 1ZE
mayor@london.gov.uk ♦ london.gov.uk ♦ 020 7983 4000

MAYOR OF LONDON

As Mayor of London, I also fundamentally believe that feeding our children shouldn't be an optional luxury but should rank as one of our society's top priorities. Making sure our children are properly fed and healthy is vital to building a better London for everyone – a city that is fairer, safer, more inclusive and more prosperous for all. This is why I will continue to call on the Government to step forward and provide the funding needed to make our Universal Free School Meal programme permanent.

Even though your child is receiving their free school meals automatically, it is still vitally important – if you have not done so already – to complete your school or borough's short registration form in case your child is eligible for extra funding for their school from the Government, worth over £1,300 per year. That's more money for extracurricular activities, teacher development and support for children who need it most. This will ensure you'll also receive any other benefits you may be entitled to, like food vouchers during the holidays. Ask your school for more info or visit your borough website.

For more information about this and anything else about the scheme please visit our online hub: <https://www.london.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Families who are having difficulties with their financial situation can also access advice and support by visiting my cost-of-living hub here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/communities-and-social-justice/help-cost-living>

I wish you and your family a happy and healthy 2024. I will continue to do everything I can to support families across London.

Warmest wishes,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London



ADVICE ON MANAGING MISSING EPISODES AND WHAT TO EXPECT

It's common to worry about your child running away. Children have a lot going on in their lives and when they can't cope running away seems like a good solution. Enfield council deals with over 1000 missing episodes of children every year. Most missing episodes end with children returning home safely. However, whilst they are missing, they can be exposed to harm and going missing is an indicator of being groomed. It's therefore important that parents and carers do their best to recognise risk and respond swiftly and appropriately.

WHY DO CHILDREN GO MISSING?

Part of growing up is testing boundaries and most children will at some point be untruthful with their parents or carers about where they are going and what they are doing. However, it can indicate harm. They might be having problems at school. They might be having problems at home that they can't share with you. They could be being groomed and exploited. Usually, going missing suggests that something is wrong.

I'M WORRIED MY CHILD WILL RUN AWAY

It's hard being a child and if they are thinking of running away then they're likely to feel sad alone or trying to fit in. Reassure them that they are valued and loved. Try to be non-judgmental and give them a safe space to share what's on their mind. Consider requesting a school counsellor or a friend relative to see and speak to them regularly.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT YOUR CHILD ISN'T BEING HONEST

If you suspect that your child isn't being truthful about their plans or whereabouts, then it's important to have a discussion with them. Be up front and honest with why you don't believe them and that you're worried about them being harmed. Give them an opportunity to be honest with you and try and find a compromise. Reward and encourage honesty where you can.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY MISSING?

Do you know where your child is? If the answer is no, then they are missing. If your child has been untruthful about their plans, then they are also missing. You should always clarify your child's whereabouts. Children can be vague on what they are doing and where they are going – make sure you get as much detail from them as possible about where they are going and what they are doing.

WHY ARE CHILDREN SOMETIMES UNTRUTHFUL?

Peer pressure and the sense to belong can sometimes cause children to be untruthful and make risky decisions that have negative consequences. Ask yourself the question why your child has been untruthful? How has your parenting approach shaped their behaviour? Our advice is to try and build a better connection with your child, which leads to more honesty.

WHAT ACTION CAN I TAKE IF I DON'T BELIEVE MY CHILD?

If you don't believe your child, it's good parenting to test what they have told you and verify their plans. Drop round and see them. Send someone to their alleged location. Some parents track their children's phones – particularly when trust has been broken. Children should enjoy freedom, but this should be balanced by protecting them from potential harm.

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP?

Speak directly to your child's social worker or Parenting support services via Early Help 0208 379 2002
Enfield Children's Services - The Contextual Safeguarding Hub

HOW TO MANAGE CHANGING PLANS

Quite often, children’s plans change, and this is OK and a part of life. You should set up a plan with your child about what happens if their plans change. It’s a good idea to ask them to contact you to give you an update. At this point question whether this changes their risk – will they be back later for example?

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU REPORT A MISSING CHILD?

The police will look for them. The police will also notify Enfield Children’s Services and depending on the circumstances additional services may be provided such as a Return Home Interview. Enfield Children’s Services have skilled and dedicated Missing Children’s officers who will try and lower the chances of another missing episode.

WHAT SHOULD I TELL THE POLICE?

The police will file a report and look for your child. Any information you can give them to assist them is important. An up-to-date picture, description of their character, who their friends are, where they were last seen, what they said they were going, the clothes they were wearing, their habits and what areas they frequented areas will all help.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MY CHILD IS FOUND?

When your child is found they will have a debrief with the police and they will be offered a Return Home Interview with a Missing Children’s Co-Ordinator. The police investigation will into their disappearance will end. Children’s Services may offer additional support moving forward.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD IS MISSING

Check for signs of where they might have gone. Check their room, check their social media, call their friends, call their friends parents, check their friend’s social media. Search for them. Call the police as soon as you’re sure that they are missing – you do not need to wait 24 hours. The police will look for your child.

SHOULD I CALL THE POLICE ON MY CHILD?

We understand that this can be a very difficult decision and should not be done lightly. Please check your surroundings first. However, the police are there to support you and your child and they are not in trouble. When they’re missing, they’re at risk of harm so calling the police to help find them will safeguard them from harm and illegal activities.

WHAT’S A RETURN HOME INTERVIEW?

It’s a talk with an independent person who provides the child with an opportunity to be listened to, to understand why they went missing, what happened whilst they were away. It will explore whether they have come to any harm and to discuss what needs to be put in place to prevent them from going missing again.

WHAT TO DO WHEN A CHILD RETURNS

The temptation to tell your child off and punish them may be your natural reaction. This tends to push the child further away. Once you’re calm, the recommended approach is to try and re-establish connection with them and to try and understand their behaviour. They might have been harmed or threatened and they need your kindness and protection now more than ever.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF EXPLOITATION?

Low self esteem
Feels unloved
Multiple phones

Frequently missing
Unexplained wealth
Secretive behaviours

Feels rejected
Travelling vast distances
Large age gap friends

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP?

Speak directly to your child’s social worker or Parenting support services via Early Help 0208 379 2002
Enfield Children’s Services - The Contextual Safeguarding Hub