



# nishkamprimaryschool

birmingham

4<sup>th</sup> September 2020



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YOU'VE  
BEEN  
MISSED



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## Message from the Senior Leadership Team

Dear Nishkam Family,

A warm welcome back to you all! You have truly been missed by all the staff here at Nishkam Primary and we are so excited to see and hear our school full of life once again.

We just wanted to take a moment to thank all parents, children and staff for a smooth transition back into school. As the week has progressed, we have continued to review procedures and are grateful for your patience and cooperation during this challenging time. Drop-offs and pick-ups have become better throughout the week and we cannot thank you all enough for adapting to these changes. We understand that there are still some areas that need planning and reviewing, such as wraparound care, and we are continuing to do so with the safety and wellbeing of our children, families and staff in mind.

Our office team have been extremely busy supporting the transition of pupils around the school. Due to this, we would like to apologise as we know that our phone lines have been busy. We will respond to all emails as soon as possible. Your patience is greatly appreciated.

Please ensure you have read through this newsletter and other correspondence carefully to ensure that you are aware of all our latest news and information. We hope you all have a restful weekend, and we all look forward to the term ahead with great optimism.



Mrs Westwood – Principal



Mrs Kaur – Interim Headteacher



Miss Prior – Interim Deputy Headteacher

# Dates for the Diary

ACADEMIC YEAR – 2020/2021

	First day of term	Last day of term
Autumn Term 1	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2020	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2020
Autumn Term 2	Monday 2 November 2020	Friday 18 December 2020
Spring Term 1	Tuesday 5 January 2021	Friday 12 February 2021
Spring Term 2	Monday 22 February 2021	Thursday 1 April 2021
Summer Term 1	Monday 19 April 2021	Friday 28 May 2021
Summer Term 2	Monday 7 June 2021	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2021

Please note mid-term CPD day Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November for staff; the school will be closed to pupils.

Date	Event
1.10.20	National Poetry Day
9.10.20	Individual and Sibling Portrait Photos
9.11.20 to 13.11.20	Maths Week England
16.11.20 to 20.11.20	Road Safety Week
27.11.20	Teacher Training Day – children not in school
30.11.20 to 4.12.20	Children invited to bring in donated items for the Homeless Appeal this week

## **Parent Events:**

Unfortunately, we will not be holding in-school parent events this term due to Covid-19 restrictions. This means class assemblies and parent workshops will not be taking place in school. However, we are looking at alternate, online options that will help us to work collaboratively with you all.

## **Parent Consultation Evenings:**

Parents Consultation Evenings are currently being reviewed by the Trust. We would like to reassure you that we are working together to ensure a suitable, safe system is in place. We understand that contact with your class teacher about your child's education is paramount and will ensure that we select the most suitable system for all.

## **Educational Visits:**

As it currently stands, we will not be taking the children on educational visits during the autumn term. However, we will be utilising the local area where it is safe to do so. Unfortunately, our annual theatre visits have been cancelled by the companies as they cannot accommodate the large number of pupils from across different schools. Residential trips will not take place this year due to government guidelines.

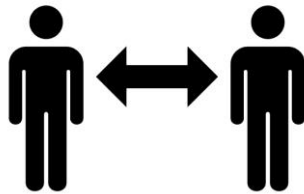
As a school, we will continue to review our policies and procedures in line with government guidelines and will continue to update you regarding any changes made to the above.

# Support for Families

I'm sure many of you woke up on Tuesday morning nervous, we did too.

For many children it had been five months since entering the school building. Well done to you all! With different timings and different doors, new teachers and classrooms, there was so much to take in on Tuesday. But again our children have gone over and above our expectations and we are so grateful for parental support.

We appreciate that many of you still feel a bit anxious and would request that all parents consider some of our families are extremely vulnerable. We urge you to maintain a social distance. Please continue to stick to your given times and try where possible not to arrive earlier than required.



**SOCIAL DISTANCING**

You will have seen the hashtag you've been missed on our fences and our communication. Please use this link <https://bwc.nhs.uk/parents-and-carers> to find a range of parent information and seminars which we hope you find useful to help your transition back into school life.



On the next page we have included a flow chart to help you understand how to deal with any Covid like symptoms. Note that if you do call into the office to say that your child has a temperature or a cold you will be asked to refer to this flowchart.

For further government guidelines, please visit their website:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

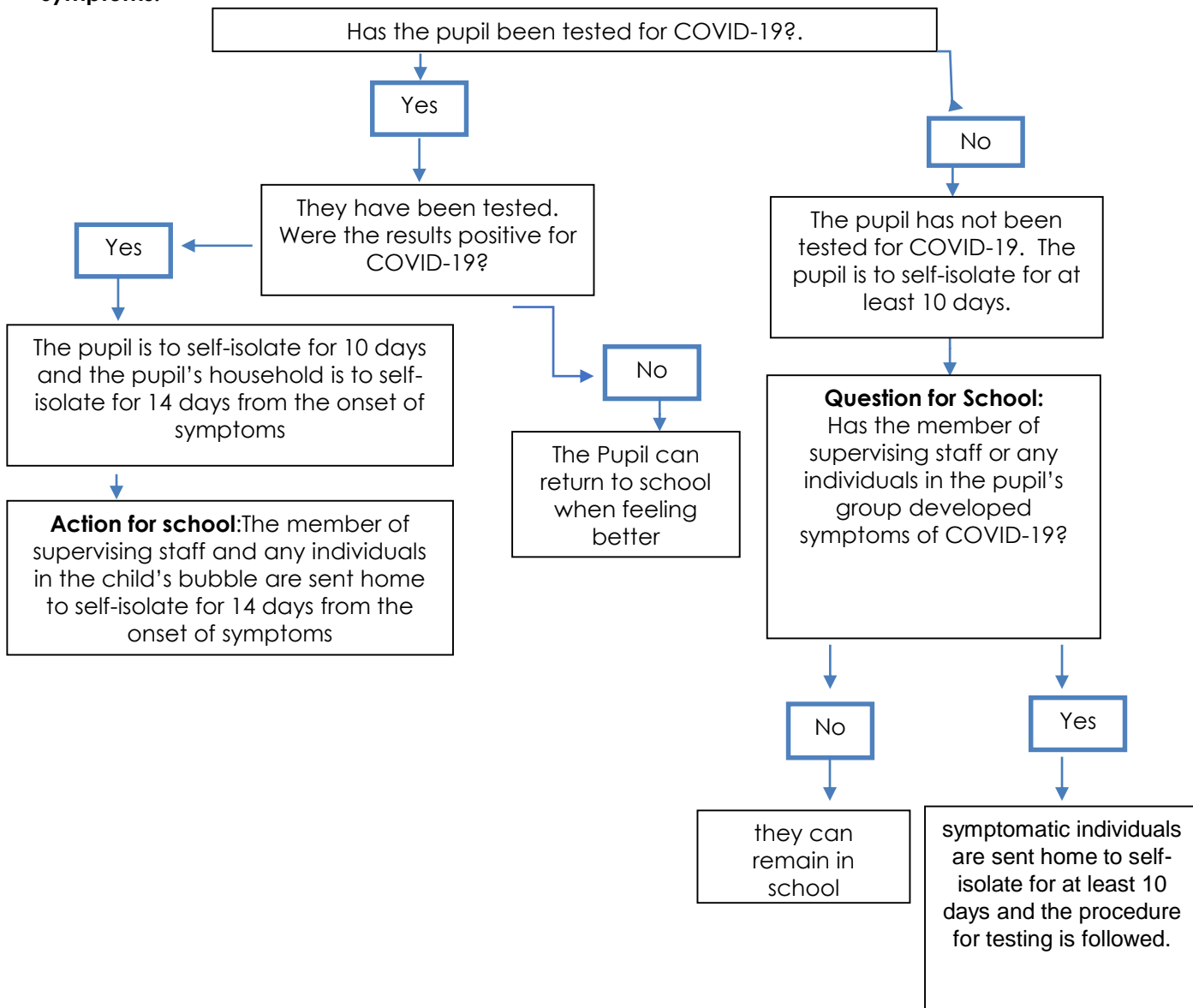
# Covid-19

## What are Covid Symptoms?

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child has any of the symptoms above we encourage parents to get their child tested for COVID-19. (You can request a test by visiting: <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or contact NHS 119 via telephone).

**The flow chart below should help guide your next steps if your child does have any of the symptoms.**



# Keeping Children Safe & Happy



At Nishkam Primary we feel know that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. In the first week of the academic year, we make it our aim to educate the children about their rights and our responsibility to keep them safe. Ask your children about their "Right to be Safe and Happy."

This week we've covered the following topics:

- School changes to keep us safe during Covid
- School Procedures
- Behaviour policy
- Class Rules
- How to be kind (anti bullying)
- Why we should always tell

Our aim is to for pupils to know:

that they have the right to feel safe,

- that relationships can be positive and negative, and
- what they can do, and who to go to, when they feel unsafe.

Our online safety session in school is always being developed and will always reflect the issues and concerns that arise in school.

We understand that the past six months have been difficult. Lots of us have been in lockdown at home: we have been working from home, we have been studying from home and we've been trying our best to keep the children entertained and happy through this tough time..

We are, however, concerned at the number of children using Tik-Tok, Fortnite, Call of Duty, using social media and much more. Primary school children are not emotionally mature enough to use such apps and games, which is why age restrictions should be followed

This week alone we've had over 10 children telling us about the use of inappropriate language whilst online at home. On Tuesday, we were told that children were again swearing at each other online; threatening and mocking each other, which is very sad to hear. We try and keep them safe and happy at school, we would ask you to create the same atmosphere at home.

We appreciate that the internet is a marvel - there is so much that we can gain from appropriate use. It is great that children can game online, however, the use of the internet must be monitored. Here are some ways you can monitor online activity:

- Set child restrictions to devices
- Consider placing your gaming console in a shared room
- Make sure your child doesn't wear a headset - it really does help you to hear what they can hear

Playing online should be no different to playing in the playground. The language used should reflect the virtues the children have embedded within school. Sadly, we know this is not the case but please take the time to encourage your children to develop safe online habits.

Please see the next page for further guidance on age restrictions.

# Do you know you age restrictions???

It is important that as a school community we are vigilant whilst children are online. Ensure you know the age restrictions of games, apps and other online or video content. Should you have any concerns regarding your child's online activity, please feel free to contact the school for support. Please see below further guidelines on commonly used apps. For further information please visit:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

The screenshot shows the Net Aware website interface. At the top left is the O<sub>2</sub> | NSPCC logo with the tagline 'Let's keep kids safe online'. In the center is the 'Net Aware' logo. On the right are search and menu icons. Below is a grid of 12 app cards, each with an icon, name, and a short description:

- Triller**: Triller is a video app, similar to TikTok, that lets you create and edit short videos using effects and music.
- Wink**: Wink is an app for making online friends with people you don't know.
- Google Meet**: Google Meet is a video meeting app that lets you send written messages and share your screen.
- Microsoft Teams**: Microsoft Teams is a tool that lets users chat to each other one-on-one or in groups, as well as sharing documents.
- Messenger**: Messenger is a free chat app that lets you send messages, photos, videos and audio recordings.
- YouTube Kids**: YouTube Kids has been designed as a child-friendly version of YouTube for 0-12 year olds.
- Zoom**: Zoom is a video conferencing app which has become popular with individuals and schools as a way to keep in touch.
- Houseparty**: Houseparty is a free video chat app where you can talk to people one-on-one or in groups of up to eight.
- Slap Kings**: Slap Kings is a free mobile game where you virtually slap your opponent in the face to earn points and go up levels.
- YOLO**: YOLO is an app that lets users anonymously ask and answer questions posted on Snapchat stories.
- Hoop**: Hoop is an app that lets you add users from around the world through Snapchat.
- imo**: imo is a free video, voice and chat app that lets you talk to your contacts one-on-one or in groups.



Important



Important

## Fruit & Milk

Please note only Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will receive fruit at school. Year 3 to Year 6 will not receive fruit at school. If your child is in Years 3 to 6 and would like to bring in their own fruit from home, please do so.

Many of you have paid for milk this week, children will receive this from Monday.

## Library Book Return

As you are aware, your child was issued with two school reading books in preparation for lockdown. These books must be returned to school to ensure we have our library ready for this term. Please send the books in with your child. These books will be cleaned and quarantined in school before going back into our school library.

Please note that these reading books are school resources. If your child's books are not returned, a fee will be issued via Parent Pay to ensure a replacement book can be ordered.

## Reading Books

We are very excited to be renewing and updating our school library. As we are currently still in this transition stage, children in Years 2 - 6 will not be issued a school library book at the moment. However, they will still be issued a book from their class reading area. Please ensure you are still encouraging your child to read every day. We cannot wait to show you our new and updated library! Watch this space!

## Curriculum

Our curriculum overviews have been updated and will be available on our school website soon. Please look out for these in the near future!

## Homework

After our success of home-learning via Dojo, and parent feedback, we will be issuing all homework via our class Dojo platform every Wednesday. Homework will be a mix of written and online tasks. Your child will be issued with an exercise book to complete any written homework in. As you had been doing the school closure period, you will be uploading a photo of your child's completed work to their portfolio for their teacher to review.

Please note that the messaging system on class Dojo will only be used for homework queries. Teachers will be accessing class Dojo once a week; therefore, if you have any urgent questions or notices regarding behaviour, learning or personal matters, please ring or email the school to arrange a phone appointment with the class teacher.

Further information regarding homework expectations will be sent out next week.



NISHKAM PRIMARY SCHOOL'S

# GET CAUGHT READING CHALLENGE!



During the holidays, we asked **all children** (and staff) to take a photograph of themselves reading in a strange, unusual, famous, exotic or favourite place so that we could create a display that celebrates our shared love of reading.

If you haven't yet, please upload the photo to your child's Class Dojo this weekend!

**We can't wait to see where you 'GET CAUGHT READING!'**





# Can you help?



As you would have seen from our summer newsletters, our children have thoroughly enjoyed growing and learning about plants. To help enrich our curriculum and the children's interests, we would like to improve and expand our gardening facilities. This is where we need you!

Do you own a business (or know someone who does) who could donate large planters, gardening tools and equipment?

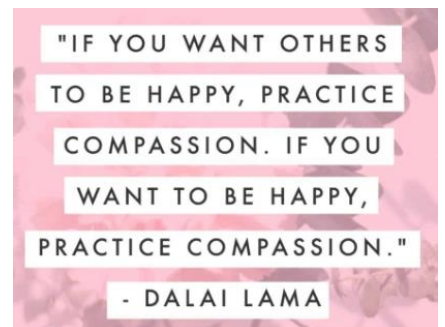
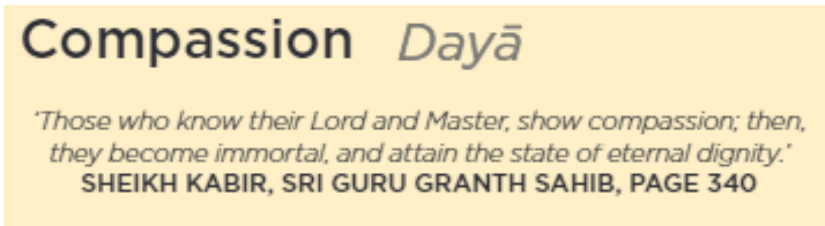
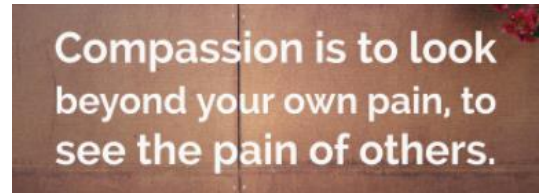
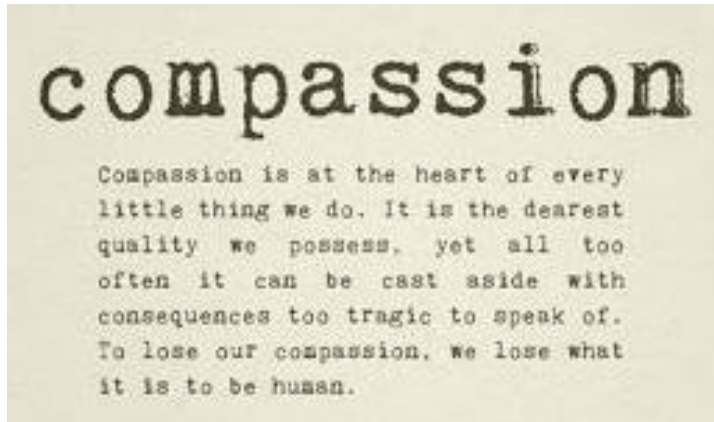
Are you DIY savvy and can offer to make planters for our garden?

If you or anyone you know can help, please email the school on [Enquiries.NPSB@nishkamschools.org](mailto:Enquiries.NPSB@nishkamschools.org) to arrange with us.



# Whole School Virtue - Compassion

Take the time to reflect on what compassion means to you...



What our Nishkam Passport says...

Compassion is understanding and caring for someone who is in trouble, is hurt, or has made a mistake. It is being kind and forgiving even when others may not be sorry for what they have done. It is caring deeply and wanting to help – even if all you can do is listen or say kind words. It is being considerate and having regard for other people and their feelings. It is important to show compassion to others and also to yourself. Compassion flows freely from your heart when you let go of judging others and seeking to understand others. It is one of the most meaningful ways to show love.

**Signs of Success**

- I notice when someone is hurt or needs a friend.
- I stop what I am doing and show that I care.
- I consider others' needs as important as my own.
- I ask what hurts and listen patiently.
- I forgive others and myself when we make mistakes.
- I help a person or animal in need.
- I think of little things that bring others happiness.

I am thankful for the gift of Compassion. It warms my heart.