

# Newsletter

The Tapscott Learning Trust

Summer 2020 - Families and Pupils



**The Tapscott Learning Trust**  
*Working together,  
achieving for all*

Dear Parents, Children and Families,

What a strange and very different period of time we have all been through!

In all my years in education, I have never quite experienced anything of the like, but it has been evident that between us, our commitment and partnership has been incredibly strong. The amazing work that everyone has done in helping each other, in terms of home learning, the schools' opening to key groups of children during this time and also the support of families and friends have shown how strong this community is: it is evident that together we really have achieved more than we could have hoped for.

I am incredibly proud to be part of this organisation and community and I am sure that you will all join me in looking forward to our schools returning in full in September.

Please take the time to enjoy the summer holidays, as I believe that everyone now needs a break and time to reflect so that when we return, we can move forward effectively to ensure the very best for our children.

Best Wishes,

Paul Harris



## Supporting our Tapscott Communities through the Covid-19 Crisis

**On Wednesday 18th March, Boris Johnson announced that all schools across the UK would be closing to most pupils as part of a national effort to curb the spread of the Covid-19 virus. This was the first countrywide school shutdown in modern British history. With heavy hearts, our Tapscott schools were forced to close their doors to all but a small number of children, and to begin the work of supporting our children, families and communities, in the very best ways we could, from a distance. Here are just some of the ways that we have been supporting our communities, during this unprecedented time:**

- Before 1st June, 25% of the children that were in school within Newham were at a TTLT school
- Tapscott teachers have been working tirelessly to support children through distance learning, including the provision of Learning Packs for all pupils and the offer of a wide range of online activities and resources. (You can find just some of these on our TTLT website page under, "Home Learning"). We know how hard our parents and families have been working on this too. Through this partnership, our children have continued on their own unique learning journeys - at home.
- We have utilised a range of channels to keep our lines of communication regular and open: our school apps, phone calls, and emails, social media and website updates, as well as Mr Harris' letters and video messages to parents, have all helped us to keep in touch.
- School staff have been preparing and delivering food parcels to families who need them
- Curwen and North Beckton offered up their premises to support the #HelpNewham initiative, in which Newham Council delivered over 17,000 food packages and other essential household items to vulnerable residents.
- We set up a Parent Hotline, manned by Tapscott Learning Trust Staff, to provide non-medical advice, information and support to parents and families.
- Teachers have been reading Bedtime Stories and setting Scavenger Hunts and Wednesday Challenges to their pupils through out Facebook Page (TrustTapscott) and TTLT website.

**As we continue to work towards wider reopening, and welcome more pupils back to school, we endeavour to prepare our school environments and implement new ways of working - to ensure our schools continue to offer the safest possible environments for our pupils to return to....and we can't wait to see them.**



## Inclusion Award Success

This term, **Curwen and Rebecca Cheetham** have been awarded an Inclusive School Award, both with Flagship Status.

**Curwen Primary School and Rebecca Cheetham Nursery School and Children's Centre have been awarded the Inclusive School Award with Flagship Status - the highest possible accolade from The Inclusion Quality Mark. IQM provides UK schools with a nationally recognised validation of their inclusive practice and their ongoing commitment to providing inclusive education.**

Curwen Primary School were praised within the IQM report for their high quality training for staff and parents; Mental Health First Aid; regular home visits; SENDCO, Kate Miles, and her "amazing understanding"; Family Support Worker, Claire Twatchman; the vast array of extra-curricular activities that are on offer at the school; the celebration of their ethnically diverse community and the "unwavering commitment of staff"

Rebecca Cheetham's IQM Report commented on the Nursery's caring and responsive response to the Covid-19 crisis: "Leaders and staff are passionate about improving the outcomes of the children in their care as well as their families. The importance of working with parents was a strong element of the discussions that were undertaken during the day. The challenge of closing the Nursery because of COVID-19 to the majority of children in their care was of great concern to the team at Rebecca Cheetham. The team was spending time developing ways of sharing resources such as paper and creative materials with children. Members of the team had developed bags

that parents could collect from the school. Other developments included making on-line videos of the staff telling and reading stories as well as singing songs that parents could use with their children."

To find out more about Rebecca Cheetham and Curwen's Inclusion Quality Mark reports, visit:

<https://iqmaward.com/news/curwen-primary-school-achieves-flagship-school-status/>

and

<https://iqmaward.com/news/rebecca-cheetham-becomes-a-flagship-school/>

"Staff at Curwen Primary school demonstrate an unwavering commitment to inclusion in its broadest sense as well as a very clear focus on the individual needs of every child in the school."



## VE Day

The 8th May 1945 was the day peace emerged after nearly six years of war, so the 75th anniversary on 8th May 2020 marked an important milestone in our history.

Of course, the Covid-19 crisis, a milestone in history in itself, prevented many planned celebrations and events from going ahead this year.

Instead, children across the Tapscott Learning Trust celebrated VE Day 2020 a little bit differently. Families created and shared videos of singing and dancing, 1940s styles, socially distanced street parties were held for key worker children still in school and distance learning was planned by teachers, so that children could understand the significance of the day and try to empathise with those who lived through VE Day 1945.

It may not have been what was planned, and we would have rather been together, but it was a chance for our children and communities to learn about history, to reflect upon the challenges faced and the resilience shown by those who came before us, and to come together, in the ways that we could, as a community.



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A Gallery: TTLT children respond to the crisis with characteristic creativity and compassion.

