

# Headstart

Distributed through schools across the borough



St John Bosco in the frame in mental wellbeing project for Black boys [See page 7](#)

Getting back to school safely [See page 5](#)



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# What's hot **for** Wandsworth families **this month**

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Send your comments and suggestions to  
[headstart@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:headstart@wandsworth.gov.uk)





# “ Welcome back to school!



I know some of you have not been at school for many months and that the new systems in place to keep you safe may seem strange.

But we are delighted you're back because we feel missing so much school is harmful, and we were determined to do all we could to help you return safely.

Throughout the summer the council has been working with schools on a package of support which we think is one of the most

comprehensive in the country.

We hope that you hit the ground running this term because we want all our children to catch up with their schoolwork, do the best they can and reach their full potential.

I'd like to personally thank every single teacher, parent, school and council staff member and everyone who has worked hard this year to keep children learning. We'll continue to check in with schools and parents throughout the autumn term to make sure we're doing all we can to help children.

In the meantime if you have any concerns, talk to your child's headteacher. We know this is a scary time and we promise we will do our best to help.

I'd like to assure you schools have have robust measures in place to tackle any incidents of Coronavirus among students or staff. There has been a handful of cases so far, but these are being swiftly dealt with and we're working closely with all our schools to ensure children are safe.

**Cllr Will Sweet**  
Cabinet member for education and children's services

Over the summer the Power to Connect laptop and data vouchers scheme, together with the government scheme, has given 1,387 laptops to local children to keep learning. The scheme is a partnership between the council and Battersea Power Station and laptops were donated by local people and businesses, including 100 recently donated by Amazon. Here's Cllr Sweet with Maisie delivering laptops to St George's primary school. Find out more at [powertoconnect.co.uk](http://powertoconnect.co.uk)





## Here are some of things we did this summer in collaboration with schools to help you return safely

Asking children and families in person and through a survey what they think about schools reopening

Helping schools update risk assessments and draw up outbreak control plans

Delivering schools streets and cycle storage and helping schools draw up school travel plans (see more about active transport on page 14)



Providing schools with emotional and mental health resources so they can support student's wellbeing

Helping schools develop extra support for children transitioning to secondary school

Assisting 15 schools with the installation of new IT software and equipment, building on the success of the Power to Connect programme (see page 4)

Running the Summer Unlocked programme and targeted tuition to keep children active and learning through the holidays



All schools who are part of the council's cleaning contract have received a deep clean

School caterers Edwards and Ward are working with contracted schools to deliver safe hot and cold food services across staggered lunchtimes.





Photo: ChiccoDodiFC

# Keeping you safe

## Here's what your school is doing to keep you safe during the Coronavirus pandemic

- Year group bubbles
- One-way systems
- Social distancing in classrooms, with some desks kept empty
- Hand sanitising stations
- Extra cleaning
- Staggered arrival and departure, break and lunch times
- No mixed-year or whole school assemblies
- After-school clubs will be run safely following national guidance

## Here's what you can do

**Wash your hands** thoroughly and frequently

**Don't touch or hug people.** This can be tough but hugging people outside your family can spread the virus

**Following the one-way systems** and social distancing measures set out by your school

**Walk to school** if you can – see more on p14 about safe travel to school

**If you feel ill, let a teacher know** – especially if you have one of these symptoms

- High temperature
- Loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste and smell
- Persistent cough.

Isolated cases of Covid are to be expected and have been planned for, so there's no need to panic if you hear about one in your school. Someone with symptoms will be sent home and they and their family asked to self-isolate and take a test.



# The S.M.I.L.E-ing Boys project

Artist and mental health researcher Kay Rufai has been working with students from **St John Bosco College** to produce a photography exhibition trail across three community noticeboards in Nine Elms

The S.M.I.L.E-ing Boys project is a mental wellbeing project for Black boys in London. The project uses photography, poetry, film and discussions to empower the young boys to develop emotional intelligence and best manage their mental health in positive ways.

It's part of the council's Wandsworth Arts Fringe with funding from the Wellcome Trust and Arts Council England. See it on noticeboards by the river opposite the US Embassy, at the junction of Condell Road and Thessaly Road, and under the railway bridge opposite Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.

If you are interested in bringing the S.M.I.L.E-ing Boys project to your school, email [kayrufai@universoulbrand.com](mailto:kayrufai@universoulbrand.com)

Find out what else is going on in Nine Elms at [nineelmslondon.com](http://nineelmslondon.com)

## Thousands enjoy Gruffalo crumble

Thousands of children and families have enjoyed bedtime stories read by Wandsworth councillors over the summer.

Councillors from across the political spectrum were filmed reading aloud household favourites by Julia Donaldson and Axel Shiffler, including *The Gruffalo* and *Room on the Broom*.

They wanted to do something fun and positive for the borough's children who had endured weeks of lockdown. The seven videos were viewed more than 15,000 times across different social media channels.

The videos can still be viewed on the council's YouTube channel. Visit [youtube.com/WandsworthBC](https://www.youtube.com/WandsworthBC) and search for the Julia Donaldson Bedtime Stories playlist.







Creating the kits at Wandsworth Town Hall



## From trees to thrones

Children at **Griffin and St George's** primary schools in Nine Elms are eagerly awaiting the unveiling of wooden storytelling 'thrones' carved from trees felled during roadworks on nearby Battersea Park Road. As part of the Wandsworth Council project, pupils sent their hand-drawn inspiration to woodcarvers Stephen Stockbridge and Morganico who will reveal the finished furniture in October.

## Art gold

**Swaffield School** has received a prestigious Artsmark Award at Gold level.

Artsmark is accredited by Arts Council England. The Artsmark assessor commended Swaffield School for its continuing commitment to providing a wide range of high-quality and authentic arts and cultural experiences for pupils and praised it for providing a wide range of opportunities for pupils to showcase their work.

# Keeping creative

**A partnership between the council and Wandsworth's creative organisations has seen around two and a half thousand art kits distributed to local children during the summer holidays to help young people play, create and make**

The project brings together Agora Arts Circle, Battersea Arts Centre, Love To Learn, Nine Elms Arts Ministry, Roehampton R.O.C.K.S, Royal College of Art, Creative Wandsworth, SenTalk, Tara Arts, 575 Wandsworth Road (National Trust) and Wandsworth Council as well as a dedicated group of volunteers.

Creat and Learn Play Kits include basic craft materials, a booklet of 14 creative activities and a newsletter signposting families to other arts activities online. The kits include work by local artists, organisations and RCA graduates.

Find out more about the arts for young people in Wandsworth by following @CEP\_Wandsworth on twitter.



# £15m investment in school expansions

**Chestnut Grove Academy in Balham and St Cecilia's in Southfields are next in line to be expanded as part of a £15m-plus investment on providing more classroom places in Wandsworth.**

Designs are now being drawn up with an anticipated completion date for both schemes in the late summer/autumn of 2021.

St Cecilia's will increase its intake by one extra class and add an extra 50 sixth form places. Chestnut Grove will increase admissions by the equivalent of 1.5 classes and expand its sixth form provision by 50 places.

Once these expansions are complete, plans for Putney's Ashcroft Technology Academy will allow it to permanently increase its intake by an additional class. In June expansions plans at Ark Putney Academy were completed, enabling the school to add two new classes to its intake and expand its sixth form provision by a further 50 places.

Earlier phases of the scheme have seen expansion at Burntwood, Graveney and Brandlehow schools. Additional resources have also been invested in special educational needs provision at Greenmead School and there is also £2m programme of annual capital investment to replace heating systems, roofs, windows, fire alarms and other pieces of school infrastructure.

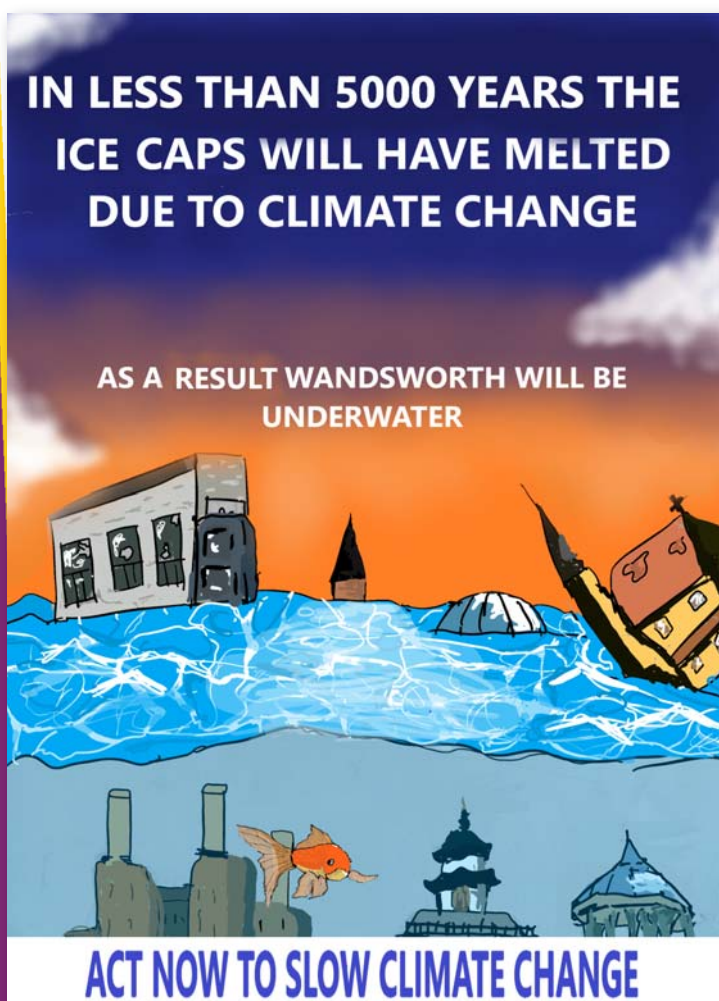
# The council's Youth4Climate poster competition has found its winner!

Frank McKeever from Ark Bolingbroke Academy received £100 for his 'Wandsworth Underwater' piece which has been turned into a poster and displayed all over the borough at the council's various advertising spaces.

Dejanae Oakley Joseph from Richmond upon Thames College came in second place and Matilda Chisolm from Lady Margaret School has come in third place, they have each received £50.

This is the first year of the Youth4Climate competition which seeks to engage the young people of Wandsworth in the critical topic of climate change as well as give them a platform for to have their talent seen and opinions heard.

Judging the competition was CEO of Battersea Arts Centre, Tarek Iskander, Plogolution founders Michelle Parkes and Dermot Kavanagh as well as Cllr Louise Calland.



Winning entry 'Wandsworth Underwater' by Frank McKeever, age 13, from Bolingbroke Academy.

# How to protect yourself

The council and local police have teamed up to help keep young people safe on the streets. Here's some advice.

**Look confident:** You are less likely to be targeted if you move with purpose and are aware of your surroundings.

**Know where you're going:** Keep to busy, well-lit streets, walkways and paths which are more likely to be covered by CCTV.

**Hide it:** Keep your mobile phone and valuables out of sight. If you're using your phone it's more likely to be snatched from your hand as you're not paying attention to your surroundings, so

look around you.

**Finally** – and this is so important to remember – if you're threatened with violence, don't risk your personal safety. Property can be replaced, you can't.

Sign up to the OWL School Watch scheme to get messages from Wandsworth Police schools' officers on personal safety messages, information on safe transport and more. Visit [wandsworth.gov.uk/owl-online-watch-link](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/owl-online-watch-link)

## Triple success for Penwortham

**Penwortham School** in Tooting has won three prestigious national awards this summer. The primary school has won the 'Partnership with Parents and 'Most Inclusive Practise Across a School' categories in the National Special Educational Needs and Disability Awards. It has also been named as a Centre of Excellence in The Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Inclusive School Awards.

## Celebrate Black History

October is Black History Month and there will be a range of events, talks, exhibitions and more celebrating black culture and history in libraries and other venues.

Find out what's on at [blackhistorymonth.org.uk/listings/region/greater-london/wandsworth](http://blackhistorymonth.org.uk/listings/region/greater-london/wandsworth)

## Pick up your rubbish

The borough's young people have been taking part in litter picking 'plogs' this summer.

Run as part of the council's Love Parks and MyWandsworth campaigns to deter littering and flytipping, the plogs have been held in various parks as well as Wandsworth and Tooting Commons.

One litter picker, Maisie aged five, had one radical suggestion for dealing with the rubbish problem. "I think animals should make the people who drop litter eat it themselves!" she said.

Plogs are a combination of keeping fit and picking up litter. The council works with the organisation Plogolution to run plogs in schools. To find out more visit [plogolution.com](http://plogolution.com).







# flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



**1. Protect your child.** The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

**2. Protect you, your family and friends.** Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable family and friends

**3. No injection needed.** The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

**4. It's better than having flu.** The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

**5. Avoid costs.** If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

## What should I do?

Contact your child's GP if your child was aged two or three years old (on the 31 August of the current flu season) and you haven't heard from them by early November.

If your child is at primary school or in year 7 of secondary school, the school will send you a leaflet and consent form. Please sign the form and return it.

If your child has a health condition that puts them at greater risk from flu, or lives with someone on the NHS Shielded Patient List, they can get the flu vaccine from their GP.

For more information visit [www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)



# Get your flu innoculation

This year all primary school children and Year 7 children will be offered the flu innoculation.

Flu kills thousands of people every year. It is an unpredictable virus and the vaccine is the best protection we have against it.

It's likely that the flu and Covid-19 will be circulating at the same time, so it's really important that young people get protected – to keep themselves well and to prevent passing the flu virus onto more vulnerable people who are elderly or who have long-term health conditions like diabetes. Catching flu could make them more vulnerable to catching Covid.

Your school will let you know about receiving the vaccine, or ask your GP.

Of course these are worrying times, and if you have any questions about the flu vaccine or concerns about its safety, talk to your GP or visit [nhs.uk/flu](https://www.nhs.uk/flu)



For more information call the council's public health team on (020) 8871 5026, or visit [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/healthchecks](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/healthchecks)

Get your **FREE** NHS Health Check from your GP.

You must be aged 40-74, have not been previously diagnosed with diabetes, kidney disease, heart disease or stroke and have not had an NHS Health Check in the last five years.

**NHS HEALTH CHECK**

Helping you prevent  
diabetes  
heart disease  
kidney disease  
stroke & dementia





# Travel to school safely

**Schools and the council are working together to make it easier for children to travel to school in safe, sustainable ways.**

The safest way is outdoors by foot, bike or scooter. Cycle and scooter training sessions are available and an additional 16 school streets will be delivered over the next few weeks. These stop cars driving past schools at drop-off and pick-up time.

Extra cycle storage has been provided and schools are being supported to achieve gold School Travel Plans. These are plans that help schools set out how they will encourage walking, cycling, car sharing and other sustainable travel. A new scheme is also being set up to encourage teachers to cycle.

If you walk, parents are being asked not to stop and chat at the school gates and young people who use public transport are asked to be alert. If you are over 11 you must wear a mask.

Find out about free cycle training courses at [wandsworth.gov.uk/cycletraining](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/cycletraining)





# How do I find out about...

## Schools

General information: [wandsworth.gov.uk/schools](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/schools)

Admissions: [wandsworth.gov.uk/admissions](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/admissions)

Term dates: [wandsworth.gov.uk/termdates](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/termdates)

Find a school: [wandsworth.gov.uk/schoolsAtoZ](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/schoolsAtoZ)



## Recycling

General information: [wandsworth.gov.uk/recycling](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/recycling)

What can I recycle?:  
[wandsworth.gov.uk/recyclefromhome](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/recyclefromhome)



## Arts, leisure and culture

Arts: [wandsworth.gov.uk/arts](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/arts)

Events: [wandsworth.gov.uk/events](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/events)

Libraries: [wandsworth.gov.uk/libraries](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/libraries)

Leisure centres and sport: [wandsworth.gov.uk/sport](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/sport)

Adult Education: [wandsworthlifelonglearning.co.uk](https://www.wandsworthlifelonglearning.co.uk)



## Parks

General information: [wandsworth.gov.uk/parks](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/parks)

Playgrounds and trim trails A-Z:  
[wandsworth.gov.uk/playgroundsAtoZ](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/playgroundsAtoZ)



## Parenting support, education, childcare, family activities, health, SEND local offer

[wandsworth.gov.uk/thriveonline](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/thriveonline)



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our children safe during  
these difficult  
times when  
our vulnerable  
children are  
at risk.**

**Please call 020 8871 6622  
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mash@wandsworth.gov.uk  
to report a concern.**

**wandsworth.gov.uk/childsafeguarding  
#KeepOurChildrenSafe**

