

March 2020

Tel: 0208 223 8943
www.bartshealth.nhs.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

Speech and Language Therapy at Stephen Hawking Schools and Beatrice Tate School during school closure

- **How the speech and language therapists will be working during the school closure.**
- **How to contact us if you have any worries about your child's communication or feeding.**
- **How we may be able to support you.**

What we will be doing

Please be aware that although school is closed at this time therapists are still working and should still be available to support you and your children. We have been advised not to carry out any clinic appointments or home visits, unless urgent needs have been identified. However, we hope to have access to emails, telephones and some access to Skype or WhatsApp video calls. Please note, we have been advised to work from home as much as possible and thus we may be making contact with you from our home environment. Our service will be dependent on staff being fit and well enough to work and there may be a delay in us responding to any non-urgent queries.

Contacting us if you have worries about your child's communication or feeding

We encourage parents/carers to get in touch with your speech and language therapist if you have any questions, queries or concerns regarding your child's communication or feeding needs during this time of school closure. If your child is not on the caseload we can discuss whether a referral may be appropriate and guide you through the referral process.

If you have specific worries about your child's communication or feeding, please contact us.

Examples of worries you might have:

- Your child gets frustrated because they want to tell you something but can't;
- Your child has access to a communication aid at school but you do not have this resource at home;
- Your child gets anxious when the routine changes (for example going out, going to another room), and this might be because they don't understand/weren't expecting the change;
- You are not sure if you are feeding your child safely.

How we may be able to support you

We may be able to carry out one or more of the following:

- Email, telephone or Skype/WhatsApp consultations to discuss and/or problem-solve any



specific difficulties that you may be having with your child's communication/feeding

- Provide or give ideas for resources and visual aids (i.e. symbol choice boards to help with choosing or a visual timetable to help your child understand their routine)
- Any problems that you may be having with a communication aid that your child uses
- If you have worries about eating or drinking you may be asked to carry out a facetime video call so that the therapist can observe a mealtime

Who we are

At present the speech and language therapists working at Brunton Place are Franky Jenkins and Neil Thompson. Nerissa Dubidad works at Beatrice Tate and Petra Maudgil works at St Jude's Road. We are supported by Nazma Begum our bilingual co-worker and overseen by Sonja Jacobs, lead speech and language therapist for feeding and complex needs. We welcome emails from parents/carers with any concerns or wanting advice about communication. Please direct any feeding queries to Franky Jenkins, Nerissa Dubidad or Sonja Jacobs.

How to contact us

Speech and Language Therapy main office at Mile End Hospital: 020 8223 8943

Speech and Language Therapy mobile phone: 07711768925

Sonja Jacobs: 020 8223 8726 (urgent feeding issues)

Emails:

Franky Jenkins: francesca.jenkins1@nhs.net

Neil Thompson: n.thompson@nhs.net

Nerissa Dubidad: nerissa.dubidad@nhs.net

Petra Maudgil: petra.maudgil@nhs.net

Sonja Jacobs: sonja.jacobs@nhs.net

Yours sincerely

Franky, Nerissa, Neil, Petra, Sonja and Nazma
The Speech and Language Therapy Special Schools Team

