

# The Compass Partnership of Schools

c/o Willow Dene School, Swingate Lane, Plumstead, London, SE18 2JD

Tel: 020 8854 9841

Email: [contact@compass-partnership.com](mailto:contact@compass-partnership.com)

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Trust Leader of The Compass Partnership:

John Camp



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**Wednesday 22nd April 2020**

Dear parents and carers,

I hope this email finds you well and that you were able to get some rest over the Easter break.

Last week the government announced a further 3-week extension to lockdown, with no indication yet on when schools might be expected to re-open fully. Therefore, we continue as we have for the past 4 weeks, providing essential places for children of key workers, those with an Education Health and Care Plan, and those with a named social worker, and high-quality home learning for the rest of our children.

Our collective aims across the Trust during this exceptional period in our nation's history are:

- **To maintain learning for all**
- **To provide places in our schools for children identified by the government**
- **To be a source of support and advice for anyone in our communities who needs it**
- **To advocate for the vulnerable and support other services if needed**

We will provide you with updates when we receive them and will publish our plans for the full return to schooling as and when the government requires us to do so. Please continue to check your school's website for important links to guidance on COVID-19, which is updated on a regular basis.

I have a virtual meeting with the Compass Parent Forum this Thursday and will use this opportunity to gather parent feedback on what we could be doing to further support you all during this time. Please email me through the Compass contact address at the top of this letter should you wish to add your own thoughts to this discussion.

We are very mindful of the accumulated impact of a continuing period of lockdown and isolation on us all and want to remind you to call school leaders should you need

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to talk anything through or if you need help or support. We are also acutely aware of the challenges that home learning can bring and wanted to emphasise the importance of happiness first – we do not want home learning to create any additional pressure or anxiety at this time. If you have any concerns about your child's home learning, then please contact the school for support and advice.

It seems that times will continue to be tough for a while yet. Together we can get through them and come out the other side brighter and stronger. As schools officially 'started back' this week following the Easter break, we must remember to look after ourselves and each other, whilst focusing on doing the very best we can for those who may need help. These are not easy times, but they serve to remind us of the importance of social bonds in our daily lives and that strong, resilient communities wrap their arms around all to ensure we all come through the challenges together.

The words of the poet Lemn Sissay:

**'How do you do it?' said night  
'How do you wake and shine?'  
'I keep it simple' said light  
One day at a time.'**

Let us take it one day at a time.

Keep safe and well.

Very best wishes,

John Camp

**Trust Leader**