

**April 2020**

Dear parents and carer's,

Welcome back to the start of what should be the Summer Term. At school, this is always my favourite time of year. I know that all of the staff are missing the children so much and are at home busy creating story and song videos for you to share. Please sign up to our Facebook so that you can see the videos. We are also in the process of uploading the videos to our school website too.

We had so much planned for this term and I am trying to be hopeful that some things can still go ahead! At least we have all been blessed with wonderful sunshine which always raises spirits and creates a better mood.

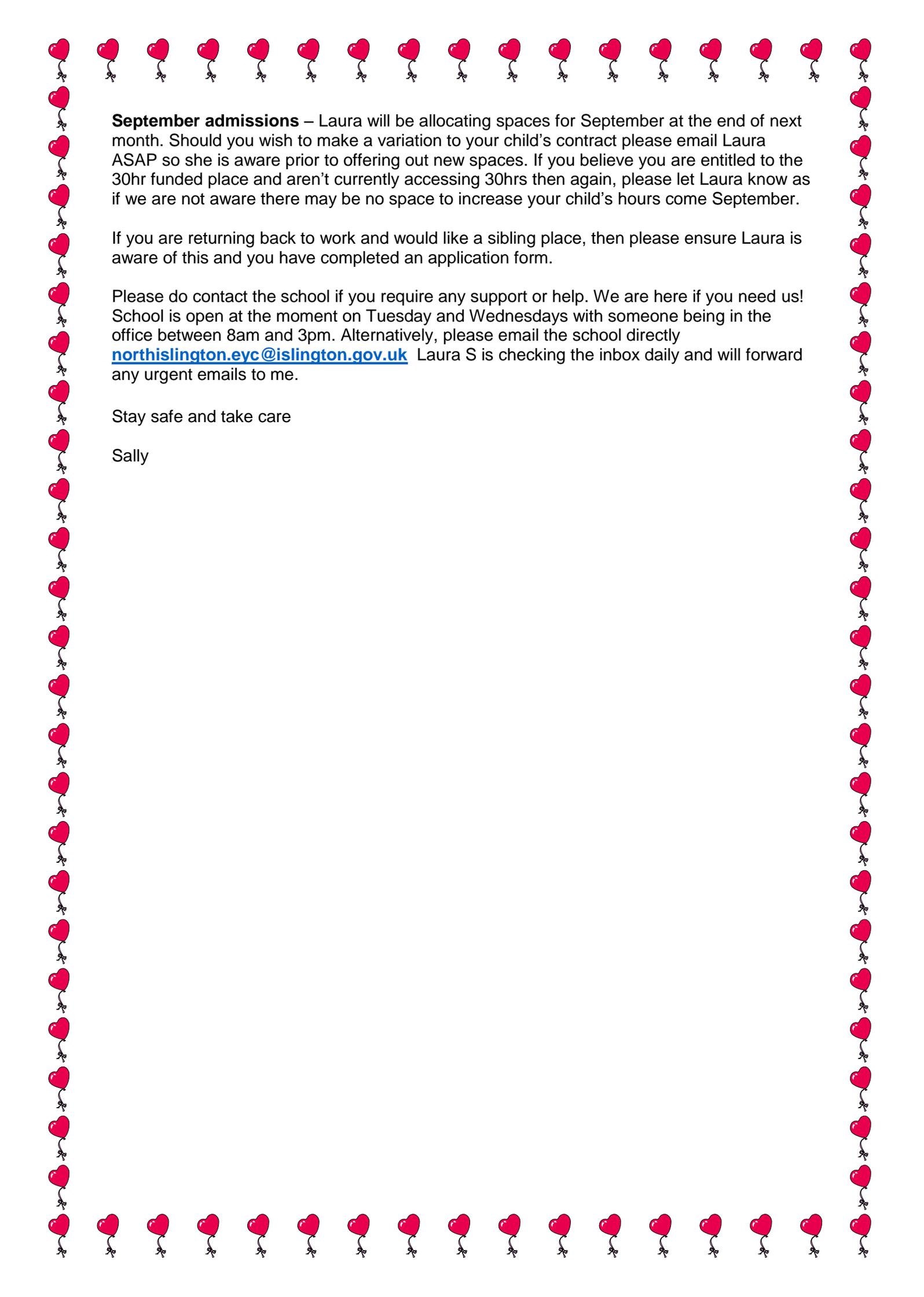
I appreciate that being at home during this time can be very difficult. Please don't put pressure on yourselves by trying to 'home school'. Whilst we are sending through home activity ideas, remember that these are playful activities. I know that many of you are also trying to work from home whilst caring for your children. I know how hard this is. I spend most days entertaining my two children, breaking up their fights and cuddling them when they are sad before I even get a chance to do any 'work'. That is on top of the cooking, cleaning and shopping! Remember to take care of yourselves too. Our children need happy and calm adults to be there for them. So, thank you for being a carer, friend, teacher, chef, entertainer and hairdresser to your child!

Below are some suggested links for support in emotional well-being:

- A free downloadable book for children about coronavirus illustrated by Axel Scheffler (Gruffalo) - <https://nosycrow.com/blog/released-today-free-information-book-explaining-coronavirus-children-illustrated-gruffalo-illustrator-axel-scheffler/>
- There are audiobooks to support stress and anxiety on Borrow Box -these might be best listened to together so your child can share their worries with you - [https://fe.bolindadigital.com/wldcs\\_bol\\_fo/b2i/search.html?b2bSite=5970&searchBy=ALL&q=teen](https://fe.bolindadigital.com/wldcs_bol_fo/b2i/search.html?b2bSite=5970&searchBy=ALL&q=teen)
- [www.healthyyoungminds.org.uk](http://www.healthyyoungminds.org.uk)
- Every Mind Matters – Information from the NHS about looking after your mental health and emotional wellbeing during coronavirus including guidance, advice and tips on how to maintain your mental wellbeing if you need to stay at home: <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

**30hr funded childcare places (3 & 4 year olds)** – for those parents already accessing 30hr placements please continue to re validate your codes when the Government ask you to. If you have been furloughed then please carry on as usual as if we are not living through this pandemic! The Government will continue to fund as usual and do not want you to drop out of eligibility for the future.

For any children who turn 3 between 1<sup>st</sup> January-31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 you may be entitled to 30hr funded childcare from September. In order to access these hours you need to complete the application and receive an eligibility code prior to 31<sup>st</sup> August. To be eligible for these hours both parents must be working a minimum of 16hrs per week and each parent must earn under £100K as an individual. If you have been furloughed but would otherwise meet this criteria please continue to make the application. Once you receive your eligibility code please email it to Laura on the email noted below. If you have any queries regarding this please also email Laura. The web address to complete the application is as follows: <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>



**September admissions** – Laura will be allocating spaces for September at the end of next month. Should you wish to make a variation to your child’s contract please email Laura ASAP so she is aware prior to offering out new spaces. If you believe you are entitled to the 30hr funded place and aren’t currently accessing 30hrs then again, please let Laura know as if we are not aware there may be no space to increase your child’s hours come September.

If you are returning back to work and would like a sibling place, then please ensure Laura is aware of this and you have completed an application form.

Please do contact the school if you require any support or help. We are here if you need us! School is open at the moment on Tuesday and Wednesdays with someone being in the office between 8am and 3pm. Alternatively, please email the school directly [northislington.eyc@islington.gov.uk](mailto:northislington.eyc@islington.gov.uk) Laura S is checking the inbox daily and will forward any urgent emails to me.

Stay safe and take care

Sally