

# VISION IMPAIRMENT TEAM NEWSLETTER

**TRANSITIONS FOCUS**

Issue 5: 19.06.20

In this issue we have included some information about the transition back to school following lockdown as well as more information relating to starting primary school, moving on to secondary school and transition to higher education.

**RETURN TO SCHOOL THIS TERM** The charity **Henshaws** have a guide on their website for parents of children with visual impairments returning to school post lockdown: <https://www.henshaws.org.uk/back-to-school-after-lockdown-a-guide-for-parents-of-visually-impaired-children/>

**Southwark Educational Psychology Service** have produced the second in a series of transition booklets to support primary schools:



**Change of classroom and layout:** All classrooms will look different with furniture moved to accommodate social distancing. Schools may be able to send photographs of the layout of classrooms to prepare children. **Communication** will be harder for children with vision impairments when there is greater distance between them and others. Gestures and facial expressions may be missed out on. Extra verbal descriptions will be helpful. Support may be required to help children judge the distance between themselves and others. Visual access to the interactive whiteboard may be compromised due to distancing. If possible, desktop copies of work presented on the board could be printed out/an adult could act as scribe. Children could sit at the computer running the interactive whiteboard if this does not break social distancing rules. **Please contact your QTVI if you have any queries**.

**STARTING SCHOOL/MOVING ON**

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**BBC Bitesize :** Tips for parents, games and ideas for children starting primary can be found here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/collections/starting-primary-school/1>



There is also a section for children starting secondary school here:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/tags/zh4wy9q/starting-secondary-school/1

**LOOK** held a webinar in May regarding support for children with visual impairment starting secondary school. Their findings and additional resources can be found here:

<https://www.look-uk.org/supporting-your-vi-child-during-their-transition-to-high-school/>

**The Thomas Pocklington Trust** have produced documents to support students with visual impairment transitioning to University:

<https://www.pocklington-trust.org.uk/pages/category/six-steps-into-higher-education>

**OTHER NEWS**

**Ideas/Suggestions**

If you would like any further information or wish to share resources with other families, please get in touch and we can include these in future newsletters

**Contacts Mon-Fri 9am-5pm**

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The BookTrust website has a number of new resources and activities in Book Trust HomeTime, dedicated to children under 5 and their families. In addition, there are a list of new bedtime stories and a shortlist of books up for the story time prize:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>





**Rebecca Woods, Low Vision Rehab officer, joined the Optolec Team to discuss her job role, low vision aids and where they fit into everyday life. If you're interested in what Rebecca had to say a copy of the video can be found** [here.](https://enhancedvision.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=bbfb64c26c3d89a52ea1832ee&id=2b4f96cbf5&e=06c71e002a)**(18 minutes)**