



Welcome to the tenth edition of the Education Mile Newsletter. Our aim is to share regular local and national information for families in the City. If you would like to find out anything further on any items or you would like more advice or information, please contact the **Family and Young People's Information Service**, **020 7332 1002**, **EYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk** Website: [www.fyi.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.fyi.cityoflondon.gov.uk).

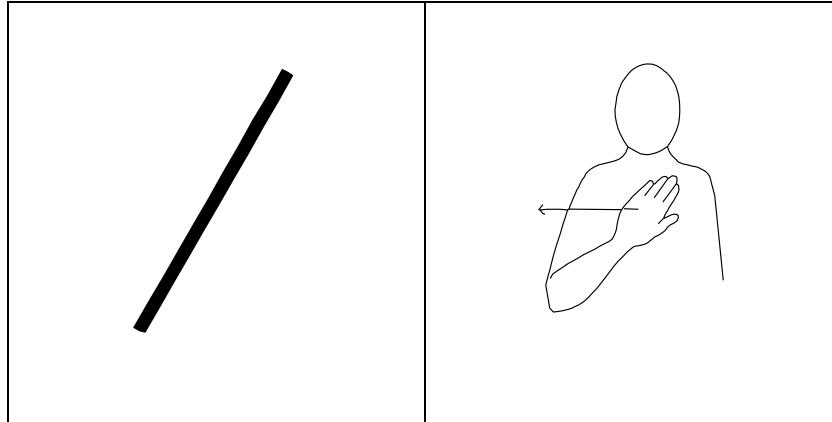
### Updates

You will have heard the news that England is now in a new National Lockdown. Colleges, primary and secondary schools will remain open **only for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers**. All other children will learn remotely until February half term. However **Early Years settings are remaining open for all children**.

### Makaton sign

Being able to communicate is one of the most important skills we need in life. Makaton is designed to support spoken language, so signs and symbols are always used with speech. If you would like to know more about Makaton or want to attend training, then contact me at [isabelle.britten-denniee@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:isabelle.britten-denniee@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

Our new sign is: No



### Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Do you live in the City? Do you have a child under 5? Then your child could receive a book a month until their fifth birthday.

In 1996, Dolly Parton launched an exciting new scheme to benefit the children of her home county in East Tennessee. Dolly wanted to foster a love of reading among her county's pre-school children and their families. She wanted children to be excited about books and to feel the magic that books can create. Moreover, she could ensure that every child would have books, regardless of their family's financial situation.

So she decided to give a brand new, age appropriate book each month to every child under 5 in her home County and send it directly to their house via the post. With the arrival of every child's first book, he or she could now experience the joy of finding their very own book in their letterbox.

The Imagination Library is now available in the City of London. So if you are a City resident and would like your child to start receiving a free book ever month, ask your local library or childcare provider for an application form.

## COLTALE

COLTALE (City of London Talks and Listens Enthusiastically) aims to support all children to develop those skills and to further develop close partnerships between parents and early years practitioners/teachers.

Research tells us that by:

- 22 months – a child's development can predict outcomes at age 26.
- 2 years – 75% of a child's brain growth has occurred.
- 4 years – the difference in the number of words different groups of children have heard can be as much as 19 million.
- 5 years – a child's vocabulary can predict his/her educational success and outcomes at age 30.



You can find insightful updates and ideas on Facebook and Twitter - #coltaletoptips.

[Put links to facebook and Twitter](#)

You can now read Coltale's Adventures online. This is a collection of short stories written by children living in the City of London.

"Where shall I go today, and what should I do?" Coltale, the dragon, can travel anywhere he wants to go. He is a friendly dragon but people are often scared when they see him. Why? Because dragons breathe fire! And fire can hurt people. Coltale doesn't want to hurt anyone. In fact, he only wants to make friends and help everyone he meets.

You can find Coltale first adventures [here](#).