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Senatsverwaltung für Bildung, Jugend und Familie ■ Bernhard-Weiß-Str. 6 ■ D-10178 Berlin

www.berlin.de/sen/bjf

To all parents and guardians
in communal shelters

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Information on school operation for families in communal shelters

Dear parents and guardians,

Schools are starting to open up again. But only for small groups and not always every day. We call this in-class teaching. On the days when your child does not have in-class teaching, they should continue learning and studying at home. This is called "learning at home". The teacher will give your child assignments.

Things are still a long way from being normal because of the coronavirus pandemic, including at school. But children still have to learn – at home or at school. Your child's school will notify you what days your child should come to school and what days to learn at home. The days that your child does not go to school are not days off. They are "learning at home" days. All children will be alternating between learning at school and learning at home until at least the start of the summer break. The summer break starts on 25 June and ends on 7 August.

Many things have changed. For example, after-school tutoring and supervision is still closed (what is called "Hort," the after-school care centre). Some schools provide lunch. The school will notify you.

If you or your child have not yet received information from the school about the times for in-class learning, please call the school. You may also ask a social worker in your shelter to call them.

Very important: Explain to your child that they have to follow the rules so that everyone stays healthy and the coronavirus pandemic does not get worse. The rules will be explained at school. And you should also follow the hygiene rules specified. Your shelter has all the necessary information.

Central email address (also for documents with electronic signature): post@senbjf.berlin.de



Learning at home:

"Learning at home" is not easy. So your child will need you and your support even more now. Please make sure that they can do their assignments and learn. For this, your child needs a regular schedule and a quiet place to study. This can be difficult when many people are living in a small space. Maybe some of the common rooms at the shelter can be used for studying. Ask about this possibility. Or you set a time when all members of the family have to be quiet and work. Maybe part of the family can go out for a walk while the others do their assignments. You do not need to be your child's teacher. Your child will get the assignments from school. But it's good to give your child support and praise for learning. If your child does not understand an assignment, that's OK. Please do not be angry. They can ask the teacher.

The State Office for Refugees (LAF) is working to improve the WLAN situation in shelters. Ask whether you can get WLAN in your room.

The schools have started loaning tablets to children who need them. This should make it possible for all children to learn at home. This applies to children with a BerlinPass-BuT.

Berlin's Senate Administration for Education, Youth and Family (*Senatsverwaltung für Bildung, Jugend und Familie*) and the schools are doing a lot to ensure that children can continue to learn despite the coronavirus pandemic. There are many programmes for support, especially for children who do not speak German well yet: tutoring in the education and participation programme (BuT tutoring), the new programme called "Lernbrücken" (Learning Bridges) and holiday and summer schools. Ask your child's teacher which programmes are available at their school. Make the most of these options for your child. Older pupils whose German is better can also find learning programmes at Lernraum Berlin (<https://www.lernraum-berlin.de/osz/course/view.php?id=23276>).

Do you have any questions or are you worried? First talk with the teacher or the social workers. There are also many phone interpreting services. Your shelter can give you more information.

Best wishes for you and your family! Stay healthy!

Best regards,

Christian Blume