



Opening in September

28.8.2020

Dear parents and carers,

The whole team are delighted that we will be allowed to work with all our children in September. We know how important it is for children to return to school - for them to socialise with other children, for their wellbeing and for them to learn. We are excited and really looking forward to working with you and your children again.

A special welcome to the children who join us for the first time in Reception and in other year groups – everyone will be helpful so you can settle in and make friends in your class – our school community is warm and friendly.

We know some children will be relaxed and even excited about returning to school and some will be nervous. We will work with all our children when they return so they can get to know other children in their new class to help them feel comfortable. In addition teachers will take time to explain the new ways we will have break/lunch, wash hands, walk around the school etc. As we will be following similar principles as Summer term, the children in prioritised year groups/keyworker children will be familiar with the routines and we know they will be brilliant at helping their classmates too. We hope all children can join in the zoom session next week so they can meet their teacher before starting school on September 3rd. You should already have received a reminder about joining instructions.

Outlined below are some of the arrangements we have made to support opening to all children. If your child is in Reception you will have received a letter in Summer Term outlining how we planned to support the gradual transition of your child to Class 1 in the most positive way possible – please use the dates and time from this letter during their transition period. The information outlined here will augment that information for you and parents of children in other year groups.

Curriculum

On our return we will teach a broad and balanced curriculum -all subjects will be taught including art, PE and science. To close gaps in core subjects, there will be a strong focus on Letters and Sounds in Reception to Year 2 and spelling & sentence writing in Y3-Y6 as these skills underpin the key areas of reading/writing. A short additional time will be given to mental maths in all classes as these skills are crucial in many core maths areas. Staff have undertaken training on mental wellbeing and we have more mindfulness training booked for staff in term 1. The children in all classes will have a strong focus in the first term on our school values: 'Aiming high to be kind, cooperative, resilient, responsible and ambitious' and the 5 ways of wellbeing: Be active, Give, Connect, Keep Learning and Take Notice. Some specialist staff will work with a specific class to explore aspects of the 5 ways of wellbeing in fun ways too: Mr Meloscia will work with class 5 to explore Being Active through sport, Ms Levan Take Notice through Forest School etc. Classes will also create charters which will include the health and hygiene measures which the children will need to follow when in school. Teachers are aware that children will need a gradual increase in cognitive load and will respond to the needs of their class. A curriculum letter for the term will be shared with you by the class teacher on return to school too.

System of control

We will continue to follow the range of controls to reduce the risk of infection – we know we cannot eliminate it. These include:

- 1) minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- 2) clean hands thoroughly by washing/using hand sanitiser more often than usual: on arrival, before eating, after breaks, before leaving school, after toileting, other times as necessary
- 3) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach: tissue bins are in each classroom/hall.
- 4) continue with enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces, using standard products such as detergents and bleach: additional cleaning at lunch time, wiping play equipment after use etc
- 5) minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible: children in C2-C5 will face forwards when learning in class, staggered timetables for start/end of day, break, lunch, corridor use planned to reduce contact, staff to socially distance when meeting etc
- 6) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE): to support children with first aid etc.
- 7) engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- 8) manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community by following the most up to date advice
- 9) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

Symptoms of Covid-19

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms. The main symptoms of COVID – 19 are: **a new continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual); **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back; **the loss/change in normal sense of smell/taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

- Adults/staff/children with Covid-19 symptoms should not attend school.
- Anyone with a symptom of Covid-19 is advised to follow ‘[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)’, which sets out that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Tests can be sought through this link: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>. If this test is positive, we will inform Public Health England and follow their advice.
- If your child shows symptoms of Covid-19 at school (temperature, cough etc.), we will need to ask you to collect them in the interests of infection control, even if they do not feel unwell. This means that even if you think they are actually struggling with another medical need such as hay fever or asthma they will be sent home – this is because, in this instance, it will not be suitable for staff members or other children

to be exposed to a child who is constantly sneezing or coughing. We have a safe space identified inside and outside the school building where a child can wait away from others in this circumstance. The staff member supporting the child will wear PPE/stay at a safe distance.

- We will follow current advice regarding potential cases/confirmed cases of Covid, contact Public Health England as requested and follow their guidance.

Class Hubs

To reduce risk of infection, the children will work in class hubs. We have limited adults from working across classes. This will mean teachers/TAs will not typically work with children in other classes. As a result Letters & Sounds sessions will be led by the class teacher/TA. We will not have peripatetic music teachers working on site for now – we will review this. We will have French lessons via zoom for children in KS2.

The teaching teams at the start of term will be:

Class 1: Mrs Parsons, Mrs Williams, Miss Wardrop

Class 2: Miss Smith, Mrs Bedwell

Class 3: Mrs Burns, Miss Morgan

Class 4: Mrs Pates, Mrs Rome, Mr Dougan

Class 5: Miss Child, Ms Avastu, Mrs Yorke

In addition we have timetabled with care to reduce contact for classes:

- we have staggered lunch times where we split the hall so 2 classes can eat in different zones at the same time
- we have staggered playtimes where we split the playground so 2 classes can play in different zones at the same time
- classes will enter/exit their rooms from specific doors to reduce corridor crossing
- have assemblies in class via zoom

We know that Mother Goose is crucial to many families that work. We have liaised with Mother Goose over the holidays so before/after school provision can operate on site. Children will remain in consistent class groups during Mother Goose.

Drop off/Pick up protocol

- We recognise that our parents have different views around the risk related to Covid-19. We ask you follow this guidance to respect all our families - we want all our parents, carers and children to be comfortable in dropping off/picking up their children at school in September.
- Please walk and cycle to school if possible.
- Whenever possible, one member of a household to drop off/pick up – this is to support social distancing, at what will be a busy time.

- Parents are discouraged from gathering to chat to enable the class of children to be dropped off / having the space needed to walk on pavements/queue while socially distancing etc. This will be more important in September as all children return to school and drop off times will be much busier than Summer term.
- We will have staggered drop off and pick up times – see timetable below. Please arrive within the time slot.
- We will continue to use the staff car park to support drop off. Class 1 and Class 2 will enter/exit the school via the wooden gates. Class 3, Class 4 and Class 5 will enter/exit the school via the main black, metal gate. We will try to create a one way queueing system to support social distancing at drop off and pick up using waiting spots on the floor. (I will set these out as soon as the ongoing building work has finished.)
- Siblings to be picked up and dropped off at the same time to support parents. If one of the siblings is in Key Stage One (Class 1 & 2) and another is in Key Stage 2 (class 3, 4 & 5) please hand over the children at the main black, metal gate.
- Children will be dropped off by the main gate/wooden gate and walk straight into class (there will be no before school playtime in the playground). Parents please do not come through the main gates.
- There will be a member of staff from the class team to welcome your child at the gate. The other class staff member will be waiting in the classroom to greet your child/help them to settle into class. Mrs Birch and I will be available outside at the start of term to help with the new routines/take messages at the start of term too.
- At pick up time please line up on the waiting spots. The teachers will line up their class in school – when they see you at the front of the line they will call your child for you.
- To make drop off/pick up work, please call the school office on 01453 822922 and leave a message if you have a message for the class teacher. Teachers will call you back.

Classroom	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5
Drop off time TAs to welcome children at gate	Through wooden gate in staff carpark. 8.50am – 9.00 am	Through wooden gate in staff carpark. 8.40 am – 8.50am	Through main metal gate playground entrance, (then down the tunnel to C3). 8.40am – 8.50am	Through main metal gate playground entrance, (then through the external door to C4.) 8.50am - 9am	Through main metal gate playground entrance. 8.50am – 9am
Pick up time	From wooden gate in staff carpark. 3.15pm	From wooden gate in staff carpark. 3.05pm - 3.15pm	From main metal gate playground entrance. 3.05pm - 3.15pm	From main metal gate playground entrance. 3.15pm	From main metal gate playground entrance. 3.15pm

Practicalities

- Uniform is important to us at Eastington – it shows we belong together as a community. All children are to wear our school uniform. This includes not wearing jewellery/nail varnish etc.. and practical school shoes.
- Please wash hands before leaving the house and on your return home in the afternoon.

- Please bring: a PE kit, a named water bottle, sun cream if needed.
- All children will need a coat every day. We do not have staff to look after children inside as well as outside. We will have staggered breaks/lunch times and all children will be taken outside to play, even if it is drizzling.
- We have organised for Caterlink to provide a packed lunch instead of hot school meals due to the difficulties of serving hot meals. Children can select their choice of sandwich filling at school in the usual way. If your child is in Reception, Y1 or Y2 you are eligible for universal free school meals and so your child can choose a packed lunch without payment. In key stage 2 packed lunches will need to be paid for in the usual way via parent pay – each lunch will be £2.32. If your child is in KS2 and eligible for FSM they may order a packed lunch without you making payment as usual. All children can bring in their own packed lunch if they prefer. We will review this arrangement and inform you of changes when we have adjusted to the new way of working.
- Please bring in a break time snack/s – fruit, vegetable sticks, cheese or crackers. We are a healthy school and do not eat chocolate bars/crisps etc at break time. We have been assured the Reception/KS1 fruit scheme will start so if your child in Reception, Y1 and Y2 they will be offered a piece of fruit at break time. We suggest you put in an additional break snack for your child to sustain them until lunch time in case they do not like the fruit on offer.
- Please do not bring in any toys/teddies/pencil cases etc.. All children will be provided with their own resources in a tray/wallet of items they use daily to avoid sharing equipment as much as possible. Classes will share equipment if necessary to support a broad and balanced curriculum being offered. Occasionally resources will need to be shared over classes – we will wait 72 hours wherever possible before we do this.
- Reading books will be sent home. On return, books will be stored for 72 hours / covers wiped before being re-issued.
- All children are expected to attend school from September. If your child is unable to attend school, please notify school by calling in the usual way: 01453 822922.
- If your child might have a toilet accident and can change themselves, please provide spare clothes in their bag. If clothes are not provided school clothes will be used. If a child is unable to change themselves we will call parents/carers to discuss/collect their child.
- If your child needs medicine, parents will need to notify and discuss this with Mrs Birch. Parents will be asked to come to school to administer it to their child at the appropriate time.

WHAT YOU CAN DO BEFORE RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER

- Talk with your child about returning to school and how there will be some different routines in place. If children have been in school they will be familiar with the routines. If children haven't been in school we will share these with children in class when we start term.
- Get back to term time bedtime routines before school starts. Get up at the time your child will need to be up on a school day. Consider going for a walk at this time so it feels normal to leave the house at this time.
- Walk past the school when you take one of your daily exercises in the week before we open– explain how excited their teachers / the other children will be to see them.
- Consider playing games that involve turn taking/patience. They will be in a larger class group and won't have the 1:1 attention that they have been used to with you or the attention they have enjoyed while in school working with teachers.
- Remind children that you will be thinking about them when they are at school and you would love to hear about something they have enjoyed.

Thank you to the staff team who have been so flexible in working in different ways and giving some of their lunch breaks up to make the timetabling work for the children. The staff and I are really are delighted to be returning fully in September and are excited about seeing you and teaching your children. Enjoy the final days of your holiday together.

With kind regards,

Zoe Avastu
Headteacher