



School Return on March 8th 2021

1st March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

The whole team are delighted that we will be allowed to work with all our children from Monday 8th March. We know how important it is for children to return to school - for them to play and socialise with other children as well as learn together.

We know some children will be relaxed and excited about returning to school and some will be nervous. We will support the children when they return so they can feel comfortable as soon as possible. In addition teachers will take time to explain the ways we will have break/lunch, wash hands, walk around the school etc again. The children were wonderful at picking up these routines and helping each other remember at the start of this academic year and we do not foresee problems – we are keeping to the same structure/timetable as September wherever we can.

Outlined below are some of the arrangements we have made to support opening to all children again - they are similar to September. I do understand that people have different views on how we should move forward as a country with Covid-19 – however we need to continue to be respectful of the guidance given to schools and national guidance as we have parents who are shielding, we want to reduce the risk of transmission/classes having to work at home again and to support the NHS workers who have worked so tirelessly over the last year. We have worked well on this together when we returned to school in September and look forward to your continued support and cooperation now.

Please read the information below regarding drop off/pick up as there are a couple of important changes.

- We ask adults to wear masks around the front of the school and on site.
- We will trial a different queueing system for C1 and C2 as concerns about people coming early and queueing by the railing were raised by parents just before lockdown. There is not a perfect solution to pick up/drop off at any school but we hope the changed queueing system will allow for more parents to wait on site at 1 metre+ distance.
- We ask that you drop your child/ren off in the morning anytime within the 10 minute time slot. Please do not come to school early/send your child to school early as it means there are more people than necessary around the school front before/after school which in turn hampers other parents from dropping off speedily/effectively.

Before I close I want to thank you for all your hard work helping your children at home. Being teacher/TA as well as Mum, Dad, carer can be really tricky – and that is before you include juggling work, siblings, money worries and other life pressures that covid has engendered. You have been wonderful and your efforts will really help your child/ren return as positively as possible on March 8th.

With many thanks for your continued support,

Zoe Avastu
Headteacher

Curriculum

During this lockdown teachers have taught our planned curriculum for this year. Some units of work may have swapped terms within the year by teachers to help children learn at home.

On our return to school teachers will continue to teach our planned curriculum. This will be broad - all subjects will be taught including art, PE and science. Teachers will continue to prioritise key objectives in foundation subjects if needed. In core subjects, there will be a strong focus on Letters and Sounds in Reception to Year 2 and spelling, sentence writing and vocabulary 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. Teachers are aware that some children will need a gradual increase in cognitive load and will respond to the needs of their class.

Staff have previously undertaken training on mental well-being and have had mindfulness training so they have techniques which will support children on their return to school. The children in all classes will continue to enjoy an active afternoon which will focus on the 5 ways of well-being: Be active, Give, Connect, Keep Learning and Take Notice. Mr Meloscia will work with Class 5 to explore Being Active through sport, Miss Mills will explore Being Active with C4, Class 3 will explore the 5 ways of well-being through games, Mrs Curran will explore Being Active with C2 and Ms Levan will explore the 5 ways of well-being through Forest School in C1. Teachers will also focus on the five ways of well-being again in PSHE lessons in Term 4 too.

Classes will review the class charters/rules they created which included the health and hygiene measures the children will need to follow when in school.

System of control

The latest RA can always be found on the school website.

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 required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend the school.
- 2) Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances.
- 3) Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
- 4) Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- 5) Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents.
- 6) Consider how to minimise contact across the site and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
- 7) Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- 8) Ensure individuals wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary.
- 9) Promote and engage in asymptomatic testing, where available.
- 10) Promote and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
- 11) Manage and report confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community.
- 12) Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

Symptoms and prevention 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.

Prevention

When an individual develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or has a positive test they must not come into the school if:

- they have one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area
- they have had a positive test.

They must immediately cease to attend and not attend for at least 10 days from the day after:

- the start of their symptoms
- the test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test (whether this was a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test)

Anyone told to isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their public health protection team has a legal obligation to self-isolate, but you may leave home to avoid injury or illness or to escape risk of harm. More information can be found on NHS Test and Trace: 'how it works'.

If anyone in our school develops a new and continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), we:

- must send them home to begin isolation - the isolation period includes the day the symptoms started and the next 10 full days
- advise them to follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection
- advise them to arrange to have a test as soon as possible to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19)

Other members of their household (including any siblings and members of their support or childcare bubble if they have one) should self-isolate. Their isolation period includes the day symptoms started for the first person in their household, or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms, whether this was a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, and the next 10 full days. If a member of the household starts to display symptoms while self-isolating they will need to restart the 10 day isolation period and book a test.

If anyone tests positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they must restart the 10 day isolation period from the day they developed symptoms.

Class Hubs

To reduce risk of transmission and classes of children having to self-isolate at home, the children will work in class hubs again. We will limit adults from working across classes wherever possible. 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 – we will review this.

We will look to initiate our plans for catch-up. Catch-up tutors will work with children from different classes to facilitate this however we will not mix children from different classes to reduce transmission risk.

The core teaching teams will be:

Class 1: Mrs Parsons, Mrs Williams, Miss Wardrop

Class 2: Miss Smith, Mrs Bedwell

Class 3: Mrs Burns, Mrs Morgan

Class 4: Miss Pates, Mrs Rome, Miss Hathaway, Mr Dougan, Miss Mills

Class 5: Mrs Redpath, Ms Avastu, Mrs Yorke

In addition we have timetabled with care to reduce contact for children in different 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 Teams

We know that Mother Goose is crucial to many families that work. We have liaised with Mother Goose 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 know there is not a perfect solution to pick up/drop off for any school right now. We want all our parents, carers and children to be as comfortable as possible when dropping off/picking up their children at school. We ask you follow this guidance to respect all our families again so we can do the best we can with the space we have.

- Please wear a mask on site and around the front of the school during drop off/pick up.
- Please walk and cycle to school if possible.
- Whenever possible, one member of a household to drop off/pick up – this is to support reducing the number of people at the school front at what will be a busy time.
- Please do not gather to chat before or after drop off. If you arrive before your time slot, maybe stay in the car/walk around the church or orchard area. Reducing numbers at the front of the school will help everyone get in and out swiftly and as safely as possible.
- We will have staggered drop off and pick up times again– see timetable below. Please arrive anytime within the 10 minute time slot.
- 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.
- We will continue to use the staff car park to support drop off for Class 1 and Class 2 – they will enter/exit the school via the wooden gates and through the outside Reception play area. We will create a one way queueing system to support social distancing at drop off and pick up in the school car park using waiting spots on the floor etc. Please do not queue to drop off/collect your child until your time slot. Mrs Birch and I will be available outside at drop off time for the first few days to help with the new routines on the C1/C2 side.
- Class 3, Class 4 and Class 5 will enter/exit the school via the main black, metal gate as before.
- At pick up time please line up on the waiting spots. The teachers will line up their class– when they see you at the front of the line they will call your child for you.
- We know drop off/pick up is harder for families with more than one child. Siblings can be dropped off at the same time. If both children are in C1/C2 just drop them off together at the wooden gate. If both children are in C3/C4/C5 drop them both at the black, metal gate. If one of the children is in C1 or C2 and another is in C3,C4 or C5, please drop the children at the main black, metal gate. From here the children will be able to enter school without crossing other classrooms.

- We understand that if you have children in more than one class you might need to wait to pick them up at the end of the day – this is fine. We won't let children go until we see you so don't worry if you are late due to picking up a sibling at the other entrance.
- If you want to talk to a teacher, please call the school office on 01453 822922 and leave a message for the class teacher rather than talking at the school gate/holding up drop off for other parents. 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 – 9.00am	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. 3.15-3.25pm	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. 3.15-3.25pm	From main metal gate playground entrance. 3.15-3.25pm

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 practical school shoes and not wearing jewellery/nail varnish etc. Due to the need for classroom ventilation it would be a great idea if children wore an extra layer/t-shirt to ensure they are warm enough.
- 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 - ever hopeful).
- All children will need a coat every day. Being outside and natural light is really helpful for our mental as well as physical health. Most children enjoy playing and socialising together too. All children will be taken outside to play, even if it is drizzling. I am afraid we do not have staff to look after children inside as well as outside as we are very stretched due to staggered breaks/lunch times.
- Caterlink will provide a packed lunch for those who want it when we return to school. A Caterlink packed lunch consists of a white baguette, salad sticks, a cake/biscuit and a piece of fruit. Children can select their choice of baguette filling at school in the usual way – typically cheese/egg/ham/tuna. 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 Parentpay – 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. All children can bring in their own packed lunch if they prefer.
- 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. The Reception/KS1 fruit scheme has started so if your child is 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 frequently used equipment as much as possible. Classes will share equipment within classes if necessary to support a broad curriculum being

offered. Occasionally resources will need to be shared over classes – we will wait 48 hours (72 for plastics) wherever possible before we do this.

- Reading books will be sent home. On return, books will be stored for 48/72 hours or covers wiped before being re-issued.
- All children are expected to attend school from 8th March. 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 let the class teacher know and provide spare clothes in their bag. If clothes are not provided school clothes will be used for children in C1. 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 MARCH

- Talk with your child about returning to school and reassure them that they are familiar with the routines of school. Staff will remind them and their friends will help them too – we're all in this together.
- 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 – we really are looking forward to seeing all our children again.
- 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.
- 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 when you see them at the end of the day.