



## Welcome Back to School

1.9.2021

Dear children, parents and carers,

I do hope you have had brilliant Summer holiday with some rest, fun and laughter with family and friends. The school team have been busy preparing the classrooms and site for a new year working together with you and the children. We are really looking forward to seeing you on Friday and hearing your news!

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.

In terms of our return to school, please find a summary of the latest school guidance and practical information below.

If your child is in Reception you will have received a letter in Summer Term outlining the gradual transition of your child to Class 1 over the first few weeks – please use the dates and times from this letter during their transition period. The information outlined here will augment that information for you.

We are excited and really looking forward to working with you and your children again.

Zoe Avastu

Headteacher

### OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE/INFORMATION

#### REDUCING RISK

**Thank you for your amazing support and help over last year. We worked together really well following the guidance to reduce the disruption to the education of children successfully.**

Positively, we know that children are typically less affected by covid-19 which is brilliant news. We need to continue to try and lower the risk of covid transmission to support health, enable consistency in teaching on site for children and reduce the impact on parents of children having to work at home. I know you will continue to help us do this over this year whatever new guidance is issued or we need to change arrangements.

As a school we continue to put in measures to reduce the risk of transmission-we know we cannot eliminate it. These include:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone: hand washing/sanitising frequently, respiratory hygiene through 'Catch it – Bin-it – Kill it' approach

- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes: frequently touched surfaces in classes/shared toilets will be cleaned at lunch time as well as at the end of the day.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated: opening external windows in classrooms/rooms used, opening internal external doors.
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19: we have a space where anyone with symptoms can stay until they are collected/can go home.
- Undertake a Risk Assessment – the latest version is on the school website.
- Offering staff LFT kits.

We will 'step up and down' measures in light of school/local outbreaks and in response to local/national guidance.

### **DROP OFF/PICK UP**

Government operational guidance to schools (27.8.2021) no longer recommends that schools keep children in consistent groups (bubbles). This means we no longer need to have stagger break/lunch times/drop off/pick-ups, assemblies can resume, and we have greater flexibility in organising the curriculum again. As a result of this change, we will move to our pre-covid timetable.

This means **the morning drop off time for children in all classes will be 8.40-8.50am**. From 8.40 there will be a teacher on duty in the main playground. All children will enter the school via the main black metal gates. For parents new to the school, children and parents (if they want/have time) can come into the playground, talk to friends etc. We ask children do not run at this time as the playground is full. At 8.50am a bell is rung, and children line up in their class groups. The class teacher/TA then walk the children into school to start their day with us. The outer gate is then locked to ensure children are safe.

At pick up time, children in **Class 1 and Class 2 will be ready for collection with their teacher at 3.10pm** and **children in Class 3, 4 & 5 will be ready at 3.15pm**. (We make this change to help ensure we can hand over children in Reception/KS1 to parents safely.) For parents new to the school, please wait outside the main black gate. Teachers will look for parents and then your child will come to you.

The Government operational guidance does state that schools need to be prepared to reinstate bubbles as a temporary measure if needed. We will of course inform you of this change if it arises as we will return to the staggered drop off/pick-ups etc. timetable.

### **FACE COVERINGS**

Guidance states face coverings are not mandatory. However, unless exempt we are advised to wear masks in crowded or enclosed places. As such **we ask you wear masks when dropping off/picking up your child as the playground/school front is likely to be busy** at these times. We also want to be respectful of parents who have family members with underlying conditions who may need to continue to be extra cautious.

**Please wear face coverings when coming into reception** too. If you have a meeting with a staff member, the need to wear masks will be agreed with the staff member depending on where the meeting takes place. Many thanks.

## MANAGING CASES, TRACING AND ISOLATION INFORMATION

Much of the guidance stays the same as last year. However, the big difference is other children in a class will not need to work from home if there is a positive covid case within a class. This will reduce disruption to education considerably.

Please find details below:

- At present NHS states covid symptoms as: a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours: a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal. See the link for symptoms in children/adults:  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> )
- Pupils, staff and other adults should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).
- 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.
- Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.
- Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:
  - they are fully vaccinated
  - they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
  - they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
  - they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal.

- Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#). They will also need to [get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19](#).

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

## **CURRICULUM**

- Our school values underpin all we do: 'Aiming high to be kind, cooperative, resilient, responsible and ambitious'. The children will have a strong focus on these and we are looking forward to exploring these in assemblies and in class.
- We will teach a broad and balanced curriculum - all subjects will be taught including art, PE and science. We developed a new curriculum just as covid started -this has been implemented. Now we are able, we will review this curriculum and adapt it as necessary this year. A class curriculum letter for the term will be shared with you by the class teachers so you understand the focus of learning for your child.
- To support closing 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. We hope to secure more tutoring provision for specific pupils – we will contact you if your child will be involved with this.
- A short additional time will be given to mental maths in all classes as these skills are crucial in many core maths areas. We hope to be part of an exciting maths program in Rec-Y2 which focusses on core number understanding.
- The five ways of well-being will continue to be developed: Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning; Give and Connect. We plan to train our older children to be Well-being and Sports leaders again this year so they can help other children in the school. Staff have undertaken training on mental well-being and mindfulness last year.
- Now we are able, we have planned for wider sport opportunities this year. Over the year we have a planned for: a gymnastics coach to work with class for a block; a specialist coach to work with younger children on core skills; dance days linked to the curriculum; opportunities for new sports to be tried (we have 2 climbing walls booked to come to school). We hope we can resume swimming program for all children in KS2 this year too.

## **OTHER PRACTICALITEIS**

- 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 go outside so children can socialise/play at break/lunch times.
- Caterlink will provide a choice of hot school meals. Children can select their choice of meal at school. If your child in in Reception, Y1 or Y2 you are eligible for universal free school

meals and so your child can choose a hot lunch without payment. In key stage 2 packed lunches will need to be paid for in the usual way via parent pay. If your child is in KS2 and eligible for FSM they may order a hot lunch without you making payment as usual. 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 will be operational so if your child in Reception, Y1 and Y2 they will be offered a piece of fruit at break time.
- Please do not bring in any toys/teddies/pencil cases etc.. All children will be provided with resources.
- 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
- Some children might have a toilet accident in school - please don't worry about this, especially if your child is in Reception-but do let us know. 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 collect their child if needed.
- If your child needs medicine, parents will need to notify and discuss this with Mrs Birch. Parents may be asked to come to school to administer it to their child at the appropriate time.