

Eastfield Primary School

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18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**UPDATE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS OF PUPILS IN RECEPTION (CLASS 1 AND 2), YEAR 1 (CLASS 3 AND 4) AND YEAR 6 (CLASS 13 AND 14).**

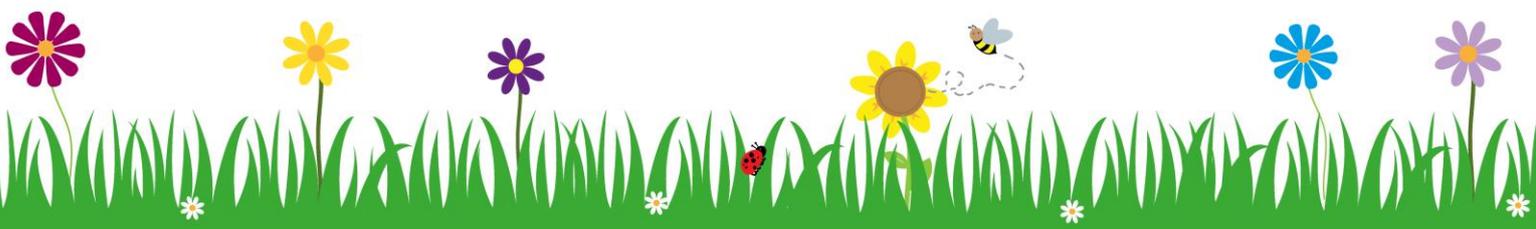
I am writing to update you on our arrangements so far for the children who may be able to return after  $\frac{1}{2}$  term. There is currently a lot of guidance from both the Government and also from Wolverhampton LA and we are taking account of all of this with our plans moving forward.

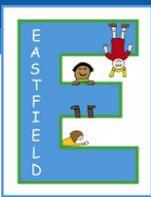
Thank you to those parents who responded to my texts last week, indicating that their child will hopefully be returning to school if we re-open. In order for us to plan thoroughly it is vitally important that we know how many children will be returning and so Mrs Stewart, Miss Lea and Mrs Hylton will be ringing parents over the next couple of days to establish final numbers. I am keen to make it clear that you will not be penalised if you decide to keep your child at home. Home learning will still be set on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday - the same as we do now.

I know that both parents and children will have many unanswered questions and many worries about this possible return and so I would like to update you on our plans so far. It is important to note that the Government's guidance is being published daily and the LA is trying to work towards a consistent LA approach, with all schools operating in a similar manner and so our plans are subject to change.

Plans so far:

- School to reopen on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June (NOT 1<sup>st</sup> June).
- School to reopen to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 but we will do this 1 day at a time.
- Each year group will be split into 3 or 4 'bubbles' with no more than 15 pupils in each bubble - the size of the bubble depends on how many children are sent into school.
- Each bubble will be given a name.
- Each bubble will be allocated an entrance / exit gate (either main gate, breakfast club gate, Eastfield Grove gate, community centre / car park gate) and school staff will collect the children from each gate.
- Each gate area will have 2m markings and parents / children will need to wait in a short line 2m apart (like at supermarkets) following social distancing.
- Only one parent will be able to drop off / collect and parents will not be allowed to enter the school site with their child and will need to leave the gate area. Any correspondence with teachers will need to take place via phone calls or via emails to the phase leaders using the dedicated email addresses - [earlyphase@eastfieldpri.co.uk](mailto:earlyphase@eastfieldpri.co.uk) or [upperphase@eastfieldpri.co.uk](mailto:upperphase@eastfieldpri.co.uk). The main office will remain closed.
- Each bubble will be given a staggered start and end time e.g. 9am, 9:30am, 10am start times and 2pm, 2:30pm and 3pm end times.
- Children will need to arrive at their staggered time and will not be allowed through another gate - if a child is late then they will not be permitted in school and not allowed through another gate.
- If a child is very distressed at the gate because of social distancing etc we will request that you take them home.
- Each bubble will be allocated a classroom, which will become its base.
- Each bubble will have allocated adults in order to minimize who they are in contact with. This may or may not be your child's class teacher, but will be adults known to your child.
- Each bubble will be taught the home learning activities set by your child's class teacher.
- Each bubble will only access their classroom, allocated toilets and an allocated outside area - they will not be permitted to mix with children from another bubble.
- Children will be taught to wash their hands for 20 seconds across the school day including the beginning of the day, after the toilet and before lunch. They will also have access to hand sanitizer.





- Surfaces that are touched will be cleaned more regularly than usual.
- Children will access specific toilets, these will be cleaned during the

day and access to them will be monitored during the day and access to them will be monitored to encourage social distancing.

- Children will eat a packed lunch in the classroom (either brought in from home or brought from the kitchen for those children entitled to free school meals) so that they remain in their bubble.
- Children will need to wear school uniform that is regularly washed, ideally on a daily basis.
- Children will be given their own table and chair and will be given their own resources for use e.g. pencil, pencil sharpener, ruler, ipad etc and these will be cleaned daily.
- Children in Reception will be allocated a set of larger resources for their bubble and these will also be cleaned daily.
- We will encourage the children to keep their distance from each other and we will teach the children about social distancing. However, we are fully aware that children naturally want to play together and we are unable to guarantee that they will social distance and remain 2m away from each other.
- Children of critical workers will be kept in their own bubbles and will not mix with other groups.

Government advice states that the wearing of a face covering or face mask in schools is not recommended. Therefore children will not be able to wear them in school. This is because staff are not able to help children to put them on and off, and the children increase any risk of catching or passing on the infection by messing with areas around their face and mouth. However, staff do have the option to wear PPE protection, such as masks and gloves, so children may see staff in these items throughout the day, especially at drop off / collection times and also if staff are administering first aid.

Free School meal vouchers and weekly packed lunch hampers will continue until your child returns to school. On returning to school, vouchers and hampers will stop, as your child will receive a meal in school at lunchtime.

Symptoms of COVID19 - in school if your child presents with symptoms you will be contacted immediately. Children will wait in a designated area, in isolation, until they can be collected. You and your family **MUST** then self-isolate for the next 14 days before returning to school. If any member of your household presents with symptoms then you child must **NOT** come to school and must self-isolate for 14 days. **PLEASE NOTIFY SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY.**

At present, there are still no plans for Year 2, 3, 4 or 5 to return to school before September and so children in these year groups will continue to learn at home.

I will write again with even more detailed plans for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 via text, Facebook and letters on the school website as soon as we get clarification that 2<sup>nd</sup> June is definitely the start day. In the meantime, can you please talk to your children about social distancing, handwashing etc as this will start to prepare them for the return to a 'different' type of school.

I would also ask for your support with responding to any phone calls and text messages from school as this will make our plans much more realistic if we have accurate numbers to work with and we can then allocate children to 'bubbles'.

Finally, I completely understand that this is an extremely difficult decision for you to make and I know that what is right for one family, may not be right for another family. Myself and my staff are also in the same position where we have our own children in these identified year groups and we are making the same decisions as you - please do whatever feels right for you!

I know that this is a worrying and stressful time for everyone and I thank you for all your support,

Take care, stay alert and stay safe.

Mrs Hay  
Head Teacher

