



Eastway Primary School
Rossall Road
Moreton
Wirral
CH46 8TA

Headteacher: Mrs Emily Morris

☎: 0151 677 1235
✉: schooloffice@eastway.wirral.sch.uk
🌐: eastway-primary.eschools.co.uk

6th June 2021

Dear Parent/ Carers,

We hope that you have had a wonderful half term holiday and enjoyed the amazing weather. We look forward to welcoming you back to school on Wednesday 9th June (school is closed Monday and Tuesday this week for staff training). We just need to share a few updates with you before we return for our final half term.

Warm Weather

This glorious weather is set to continue, please ensure that your child has a named sun hat and sun protection cream in school. We will limit the amount of time spent in direct sunlight, ensure that they keep well hydrated and avoid any exertion in the heat.

COVID19 Update from Wirral Public Health

During the last week, many areas across the country have seen an increase in COVID-19 cases and Wirral is no different. In the last week, there have been more than 100 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Wirral. Our 7-day case rate has risen to 30.9 per 100,000 and (again as predicted); we are also seeing more new cases of the Delta variant (previously called 'Indian variant') than any other variants of the virus. There is now clear community transmission of this variant, but there is currently no reason to believe the vaccines are any less effective against it. Vaccine effectiveness against this variant is something that's being monitored closely, but the fact we are seeing more cases in younger people who have not yet had the vaccine is indicating that the vaccine is protecting older age groups.

In terms of cases in educational settings, most areas within Cheshire and Merseyside have now seen a few outbreaks in schools, with a couple of areas having experienced significant outbreaks in primary schools prior to the half term break. For Wirral, whilst our cases per school remain very low at present, we have seen a few small outbreaks.

We must continue to be extra vigilant and continue our hard work in all of our restrictions at Eastway to prevent the spread of the virus and ensuring that all in our school community are kept safe and protected. Staff will continue to test twice weekly and all our control measures including social distancing and strict hygiene routines remain in place. While younger children are not routinely tested, testing is available should parents wish to take it up. Parents can also test themselves as an indicator of whether there is a likelihood of COVID being transmitted among the family. If anyone tests positive, the household should isolate immediately, inform the school and book a PCR test.

Symptom-free testing

Ideally, everyone should test themselves 2-3 times a week even if they feel well. With 1 in 3 people showing no symptoms when they have COVID-19, the free tests you can do at home give us all the chance to stop the spread easily.

Symptom-free test kits can be collected from local testing centres, local pharmacies, some Council buildings including libraries and leisure centres as well as from our

mobile testing vehicles when they are out in Wirral. To keep up-to-date with the latest dates and locations visit: www.wirral.gov.uk/mobiletesting

Testing when you have symptoms?

If you are experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of sense of taste or smell) please self-isolate and get a test at one of our symptoms-only testing centres: www.wirral.gov.uk/test. Children and brothers and sisters should not come to school if anyone in the house has symptoms and whilst awaiting test results.

Self-isolation

Don't forget there are a few ways you may find out you need to self-isolate. You may get a positive COVID-19 test, you may know you've been in contact with someone with COVID-19 or you may have been contacted by local or national Test & Trace services. There's lots of support available if you need to isolate. Go to www.wirral.gov.uk/isolationguide. If you're on a low income or self-employed and will lose money by not being able to work, there is specific support in place to help you financially. If we have a positive case in school, all those who have had close contact will also need to self isolate. When children are self-isolating and unable to come to school, we will set remote learning each day and children will be expected to engage with learning and complete all work set for them whilst isolating.

Don't confuse hay fever with COVID-19

With the warmer weather and increased pollen levels, it's important for people to understand the difference between the symptoms of hay fever and COVID-19.

While the symptoms of coronavirus and hay fever can overlap, people with hay fever don't experience a high temperature and most won't feel unwell. But hay fever can play tricks on your sense of smell and give you a sore throat. If you suffer with hay fever, make sure you are regularly tested for COVID-19 to be on the safe side.

We understand that after everything looking so positive and our roadmap out of lockdown and return to normality continuing, this may worry or concern you. We want to thank you for continuing to do all that you can to minimise the risk and prevent the spread of COVID19 in our community. We will do all that we can to protect our staff, families and children.

We will continue to control the spread of COVID19 in school by:

- Practising social distancing and minimising close contact in school
- Ensuring that staff wear masks on the gates at the start and end of the day and around school when they are unable to be 2 metres apart
- Ensuring that all adults have face coverings when picking up and collecting from school and practising social distancing
- Testing all staff twice weekly
- Isolate all those with COVID19 symptoms
- Limit visitors to school
- High level of infection control including extra cleaning throughout the day, regular hand washing and children not sharing equipment.
- Limiting items brought in from home and taken home from school