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25th June 2021

Another busy week at Eastway!

I have promised myself that this newsletter will be super positive and avoid lots of complicated information on COVID but as cases continue to rise, I will have to share some key reminders but I promise the rest of the newsletter will be a COVID free space!

COVID Update

We will continue to follow the COVID guidance and all of our restrictions remain in place at this time. We have had to close a further bubble today due to another positive case. We are doing all that we can but we urge you to comply with the guidance, self-isolate when you have been asked to, book PCR tests if advised to and ensure that any unnecessary mixing with other children and families outside of school is kept to a minimum. We have vulnerable staff, teachers who are pregnant and some who have been incredibly unwell with COVID, we must all play our part to protect each other and minimise the disruption to learning and social opportunities for our children.

Summer Holidays

Thank you to all of those who have expressed an interest in your child attending our summer holiday provision. To ensure that we are minimising risk, we are going to be working with a wide range of sports coaches and outside companies to provide extra exciting sessions in school over the holidays from dance and yoga to cookery and bush craft! I will send the booking form to all families on Monday. We are excited that we can still go ahead with this and know that it is just what our families and children need after another tough year.

INSET Day

We have an additional INSET day from this year that we did not take due to COVID. We have been told that this day must be taken before the end of this school year. To minimise further disruption to our children and families we have decided that we will not close school for a full day for INSET at such short notice. I will still need to ensure that the training time is given to the staff however, so we have taken the decision to take this time on a Friday afternoon. School will close to all pupils at 1.30pm over the next three weeks, Friday 2nd, 9th and 16th July. School will not be open to pupils at this time and you must arrange for your child to be collected from school. We will send a consent form to all families.

End of Year Reports

As I have previously explained, staff are busy writing your child's end of year report and collecting their assessment information. These reports will be sent home on Wednesday 14th July and will contain the staffing list and term dates for next year. If you would like to arrange a virtual or telephone meeting with your child's class teacher following this, please contact the school office to book, after receiving the report.

Transition

There will be no formal transition days for our children this year. As class teachers can safely move between bubbles with a face covering and 2-metre distance, they will visit the children in their current classes in the final week of school. Secondary schools will be arranging their own virtual transition sessions and offering support to those who need it.

Staffing

A huge congratulations to Mrs Whittingham who is due to have her baby in the autumn term, we will miss having her in school from September but wish her well with her new baby. Miss Gouldson is also pregnant with her second baby and Mrs Billington will be returning from maternity leave and working part time with our new teacher Miss Walton. We love our Eastway babies and love that our staff families are growing but miss them so much when they are not here! We have carefully planned our staffing for September; this will be sent to you with your child's end of year report. Mrs Douglas is leaving us today as she has secured a full time job working in a nursery and we wish her all the best. Mrs Bell also started her new job after leaving Eastway this week. We are so proud of how well we train and develop our staff but the sadness comes when we give them the wings to fly and they leave us. It is with sadness that we also announce that Mrs Brodie has also left her post as SENCO at Eastway. Mrs Morris will continue to oversee all SEN at Eastway and we will be joined by a very experienced and highly qualified SENCO from September. We will arrange meetings in the autumn term and she is really looking forward to getting started- supporting your children, our staff and meeting all our families. I have sent a separate letter regarding some new services and support for our children with additional needs.

We look forward to seeing you all after the weekend. Some bubbles are still isolating, see below their days for reopening:

Eastway Explorers- Tuesday 29th June

Nursery- Tuesday 29th June

Reception- no closure, all children in Monday 28th June as normal

Year 1- Tuesday 29th June

Year 2- no closure, all children in Monday 28th June as normal

SCD1- no closure, all children in Monday 28th June as normal

Year 3- no closure, all children in Monday 28th June as normal

Year 4- no closure, all children in Monday 28th June as normal

Year 5- no closure, all children in Monday 28th June as normal

Year 6- Monday 5th July (if your child has not been identified as a close contact and the bubble remains open, they will return to school on Monday 28th as normal with a negative test result- you will be informed on Sunday evening when all PCR results will be in)

If you need to report a positive PCR test over the weekend, this must be done immediately and directly to covid@eastway.wirral.sch.uk.

It has been such a difficult school year, yet again. We have faced disruption, worrying times and great sadness in our community. We have lost school days, trips, whole school events, sports days, plays, family days and we even sadly lost friends and family members along the way too. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your ongoing support of the school. It has been difficult, particularly over the last few weeks with so many positive cases and school and bubble closures, but we have continued to push through and work hard with a smile on our faces and love for your children. We appreciate your kind words and understanding. They say difficult times build stronger teams, and this last 16 months have proved that. We have been in this together and are grateful for each and every one of you for playing an important part of #TeamEastway!