



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

10th June 2021

SCHOOL CLOSURE- HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parent/ Carers,

Sincere thanks to all our families for your kind words, support, patience and understanding on what has been a very upsetting and stressful day for my team and myself. You know how passionate we have been about school remaining open throughout and we have worked so incredibly hard and been so cautious and rigorous at every step of the way. This is not what anyone wanted.

Confirmed Positive Case and Close Contacts

One of our members of staff has unfortunately tested positive for COVID19. That member of staff isolated, did not attend school yesterday and had a PCR test, which confirmed that they were positive. We know that you will join us in wishing them well and for a speedy recovery. Our staff, as you know, have been very careful throughout to reduce risk of transmission and have done all they can to prevent the spread of the virus in our school community. The staff, like the children, work in very strict bubbles to avoid direct contact and minimise risk, they exercise strict social distancing, wear masks, test twice weekly and take extra precautions outside of school. This member of staff works across two bubbles with a number of staff. All those who had close contact with this member of staff have been asked to self-isolate. We have other staff currently absent from school and more who have been contacted via the NHS Test and Trace app to self-isolate. We were left in a vulnerable position this morning with such a limited number of staff in school that we felt it was a risk to remain open. Please be reassured that, as your children were not in school on Monday and Tuesday, they did not have contact with the member of staff and have not been exposed to the virus. No child or family should be isolating and we have no direct contacts to report beyond our Eastway staff and their own families.

Advice from Wirral Local Authority and Wirral Public Health

Following an emergency meeting with Wirral LA and PHE this morning, the decision was made to close the school with immediate effect. We know that this would have been an inconvenience for families and unsettling for your children but we needed to act quickly and in the best interests of everyone at Eastway. We have spent today identifying contacts, looking at staffing levels, risk assessments and contingency plans. It would be my wish that school could reopen with limited capacity with the staff we have available but this will need to be authorised by the relevant bodies, our school governors and be safe to do so. We will not reopen tomorrow for any pupils. Myself and our Chair of Governors will attend a meeting tomorrow morning to review the situation and write to inform you on whether this will extend to next week. The worst case scenario would be that all children do not attend school until the staff are out of isolation on Friday 18th June, but we will do all we can to avoid this.

Free School Meals

We have issued a £6 per child supermarket voucher for free school meal pupils for their lunch today and tomorrow. We have emergency food and provisions in our social supermarket for any family who needs to access it. Our Family Centre will remain open. If closure is extended to next week, a further £12 will be sent for each child who is entitled to means tested free school meals.

Remote Learning

Our teaching teams have worked hard today to set up your child's Remote Learning page. All learning set is on our school website and must be accessed and completed each day, https://eastway.eschools.co.uk/website/remote_learning/511526

CONTACT

Our email accounts remain active during this time and are listed below. The school office is open and staff will be available during normal school hours. Your child's class teacher will be setting work daily and the team will also call for a chat and see how things are going, talk through our child's work and give them feedback on their learning. If you miss the call or not have received, as we may not have the correct phone number for you, please email your class teacher.

homelearning@eastway.wirral.sch.uk For school closure information, Mrs Morris

schooloffice@eastway.wirral.sch.uk For general enquires, Miss Owen and Free School Meal information

familysupport@eastway.wirral.sch.uk For support and guidance for families, Mrs Dennett

techsupport@eastway.wirral.sch.uk to request a laptop or internet access, Mr Anderton

[\(classname\)@eastway.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:(classname)@eastway.wirral.sch.uk) To contact class teachers, replace (classname) with your child's class, e.g. year4, earlyyears, nursery, scd2 etc.

It is important that you remain in contact with school; we still have a responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children during this time. If we cannot get in touch with you, we will complete a welfare check at your house. If myself or a member of the Eastway team are unable to do this, we may ask an outside agency to support us with this. Please stay in touch.

COVID19 Support

It is now more important than ever to ensure that we are all playing our part and taking the right precautions. Cases in Wirral have trebled over the last two days and we have seeing lots more school effected by disruption to learning and closure of bubble, full or partial school closure. 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

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. If your child or anyone in your household tests positive, school must be informed so that we can inform close contacts and ensure they isolate to control the spread of the virus further.

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.

Technology Support

We have a number of school laptops, wireless routers and 4G cards for you to borrow at this time, Mr Anderton will be on hand daily to help with any technical difficulties or to request a laptop, so please email techsupport@eastway.wirral.sch.uk

To support remote learning during our school closure, we are making it easier for disadvantaged children to access the internet.

We can provide:

- 4G wireless routers - we have some SIM cards for all routers providing 20GB per month until the end of July 2021
- A request for free mobile data increases for families who do not have broadband at home & cannot afford extra data.

If you are interested, please email schooloffice@eastway.wirral.sch.uk

For each request, we need to know:

- ✓ the name of the account holder
- ✓ the number of the mobile device
- ✓ the mobile network of that device (for example Three)

We are doing all that we can to ensure you have all you need to support your child's learning at home. We have also ensured that the work set for your children is not solely reliant on the use of technology and will reflect how they work in school, recording their work in their journals and school workbooks. If you need any paper, books or stationery, please pop in to school.

- 📺 For anyone who cannot access online platforms - our School YouTube channel can be accessed through a Smart TV, Xbox or PlayStation.
<https://www.youtube.com/user/EastwayPrimary>

Thank you again for being so supportive of the school and respecting the difficult situation that we are all currently in.

We will keep you updated with further information when we have it.

Stay safe and good luck with Remote Learning.

Mrs Morris