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2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

## **8<sup>th</sup> MARCH ARRANGEMENTS**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are so incredibly happy to be able to fully reopen our school to all pupils next week. We are reassured by the local data that shows a reduction in new cases and hospital admissions and hope that this will continue so that we can all return to some level of normality in the coming months. Thank you so much for all your kind words and patience while we are again in this difficult position. Your support has been overwhelming and we really appreciate the confidence that you have shown in the school to provide a safe and happy place for your child to be during these unprecedented times.

As you will be aware, **school will be open for all children on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and attendance will not be optional**. This will be the welcome return of more structure and learning opportunities for all in school and part of our return to normal life with this new roadmap out of lockdown. Full time schooling will be compulsory and we will be doing all we can to support you in ensuring that your child attends school every day. Children will be expected to be in full uniform and on time for school.

### **Free School Meals**

Free School Meal Supermarket vouchers will not be issued to any family after this week but if you are struggling, our social supermarket in the Family Centre will be open each day and we have plenty of food in.

### **Extracurricular Clubs**

As much as we value the importance of children attending clubs after school to develop an area of interest or try something new, we are not able to offer this safely when we return but will review how we provide clubs both at lunchtime and after school from May half term.

### **Early Risers Toast Club**

**Toast Club will be back up and running again from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April.** This will only be available for limited numbers and must be booked and paid for in advance. We will not be able to take any ad-hoc places at this time. A booking form will be sent out next week.

### **Swashbucklers After School Club**

**Swashbucklers will be available after school from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April.** As with Toast Club, we will need to limit numbers attending and how this is managed in school so that children are not mixing with children outside their own family and children in different year groups. All places will need to be booked a week in advance and paid for before your child attends. A booking form will be sent out next week.

We are aware that the government stated that wraparound school care would be available to all families from the 8<sup>th</sup> March but in accordance with our own school risk assessment, staffing levels and room plans, we are not able to fully reopen this safely at this time. If you are

desperate to extended childcare and are under pressure at work, we will try our best to support you.

### Class Bubble Arrangements

You and your child will now all be aware of how the 'bubbles' work. From September, the children returned in to their own year group class and are fully aware of how their 'bubble' operates in school. In the first few days, class teachers will recover all of the rules and restrictions to support the children. This will not change when they return now but to reduce the transmission risk to staff and children, we will be teaching in smaller groups. We will continue to keep bubbles separate when in school so children will not mix with different year groups. Each child will have their own desk space and set of resources and be encouraged to maintain social distance from all others. Each bubble will have their own allocated classroom space, designated outside areas, entrance and exits, toilets and cloakrooms. They will not bring anything from home in to their bubble or take anything home; this includes mobile phones and bags. Packed lunch can be brought in to school in a disposable bag. No items can be dropped off to school after your child has entered the building. PE pumps will be brought into school on the first week and remain in school with their Eastway PE kit and we will wash these in school regularly.

### Start and End of day Arrangements

We are very fortunate at Eastway to have number of different gates and classroom entrance and exit points. From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, we will use the pick-up and drop off points as we did in the Autumn term. Staff will be at the gate from 8.40 until 9am each morning. After 9am, all gates will be closed and locked. Access to school after 9am will be difficult so make sure that children are on time for school. Pick up is 3.15pm and the gates will be staffed until 3.30pm. Again, please make sure that you are on time.

The following entrance points will be in use:

- Family Centre for Eastway Explorers
- Family Centre side gate and classroom door for Nursery
- Gate E Oundle Road for Reception, children can be taken to the classroom door
- Gate D at the Family Centre for Year 1 and 2
- Gate B Rossall Road for Year 3 and 4
- Gate C Eastway for Year 5 and 6
- SCD1 and 2 will have different arrangements based upon the transport needs of the pupils but should continue to use their separate gates.

The previous arrangements for collection at the end of the day remain in place.

### Restrictions

We will continue to exercise high standards of cleanliness and put in place robust hygiene and infection control measures and actively promote social distancing. Large gatherings such as assemblies, school canteen use and team sports will not take place. We will not be having any visitors in to school, this includes parents and carers, unless it is a prearranged meeting and the guidance is fully followed. Late children must report to the gate on Eastway or the Family Centre where they will wait with their parent/ carer until a member of staff from their bubble can collect them safely.

Parent groups, Stay and Play, Friends of Eastway events and parent/ carer teacher meetings etc. will not go ahead. Our school canteen will not fully be open but will continue to provide a free hot meal or packed lunch for all infant classes (Reception to Year 2) and Free School Meal and Paid for lunches in Key Stage 2. There is a slimmed down menu in place that is available to view on our website.

All staff will be tested twice weekly and families can now also have access to regular to home testing by ordering online or collecting from local test centres, school cannot provide lateral flow test kits to families but can provide a test kit for anyone who has symptoms.

Only one adult should attend school to pick up and drop off. Face coverings must be worn and a minimum of two-metre distance from everyone maintained at all times. Please do not stop to chat to staff or other families or cause obstruction. If you are, exempt from wearing a face covering we ask that you make alternative arrangements for pick up and drop off for your own and others safety at this time.

We hope that you understand that all of these measures have been put in place to ensure the safety of all at Eastway. We are following the government guidance given to us via the Department for Education and working in unison with Public Health England, Wirral Local Authority and our Health and Safety advisors. Our staff are doing all that they can to ensure that school is a happy, safe, secure and familiar place for your child, I would ask that they are shown the courtesy and respect that they so rightly deserve at this time. Your cooperation and support of the school is needed, now more than ever. We will not tolerate abuse, confrontational or negative derogatory behaviour on our school site.

### **Feedback Questionnaire**

A big well done to you all for continuing the Remote Learning experiences for your children throughout this pandemic. They have been challenging times but it has been a delight to see families come together, play, laugh, learn and grow- making memories. Thank you for sharing these experiences with us. We would love to hear your feedback on our improvements to our response to school closure this time, please take a moment to complete the survey; we really appreciate your feedback. <https://forms.gle/zPfv7TNUjtY622PW6>

### **Government Guidance**

Please note that we are still in a National Lockdown, even when children return to school. Families must not mix outside of school and children should not be mixing in the community, playing in each other's houses or walking to and from school unsupervised or in large groups. We are doing all we can to keep everyone safe and prevent the spread of this virus so that we can all return to normal as quickly as possible. Please do all you can to support us. If you have any further questions, the government website has produced a useful guide for families, [www.gov.uk/backtoschool](http://www.gov.uk/backtoschool).

### **Council young person support helpline**

We know this return may be worrying for pupils so I would like to draw your attention again to the council's dedicated freephone helpline and live chat service for young people. The online service is available Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm, and sits alongside the council's dedicated freephone helpline available for the same hours on 0808 196 4147. The team are now also available Wednesday evenings 7pm-10pm. More information is available here: <https://wirralview.com/covid-19-news/live-chat-service-offer-young-people-listening-ear>

Our staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure that you have reassured and well informed, your children continue to learn well and have all that they need at this time, I am incredibly proud of how the whole school community have pulled together yet again. We look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Kind regards,

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Mrs Morris