



Eastway Primary School
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Wirral
CH46 8TA

Headteacher: Mrs Emily Morris

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27th June 2021

Dear Eastway Families,

We have had a further three confirmed positive cases over the weekend. Despite all that, we are doing and the restrictions in place at school, cases in our community continue to grow exponentially.

The Department for Education and Cheshire and Merseyside Public Health have been supportive over the weekend but have classified this as an outbreak. Due to the number of unrelated positive cases, spread across year groups and timeframe, this is seen as a community outbreak rather than a school outbreak. We will be working with Wirral LA and Public Health advisors to look at support for our community and raise the of awareness and take up of surge testing in our area and stress the importance of adhering to self- isolation, social distancing and avoiding mixing households.

In line with our school Emergency Plan, any health related outbreak in school would result in school closure; however, this is seen as a community issue rather than a school outbreak. **Myself and Mr Symonds, Chair of Governors have made the decision for school to remain open at this time for the following reasons:**

1. School is not where transmission is taking place
2. School has effective restrictive and preventive measures in place to prevent the spread of the virus
3. A 'circuit break' closure and partial closure has already taken place and not been effective
4. Children need access to education and have missed a significant amount of school days already
5. Engagement with remote learning has been poor and so children are missing further opportunities to learn when they are at home
6. We have a significant amount of vulnerable pupils who are best placed in school at this time
7. The risk to children remains very low from COVID19 despite the higher transmission of this variant
8. Children's mental health and wellbeing is a priority at Eastway. Our children need stability, routine, time with their friends and a sense of normality, we can provide this.

School will be open as usual for all pupils, apart from those who have been asked to isolate or those bubbles that remain closed.

Eastway Explorers- return to school Tuesday 29th June

Nursery- return to school Tuesday 29th June

Reception- All children in Monday 28th June as normal

Year 1- return to school 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

Year 5- bubble closed until Monday 5th July

Year 6- children in Monday 28th June as normal (if your child has been identified as a close contact they will return to school Monday 5th July following self-isolation)

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

Whilst we remain open, we are urging families to please work with us, adhere to the rules and do all that you can to prevent the spread of the virus. We have vulnerable staff and many are not fully vaccinated. Last week we experienced families not being truthful when returning from an amber list holiday and sending their child into school, families refusing to test, families refusing to isolate, families not disclosing close contacts to prevent the spread of the virus, sending children into school unwell and using public transport when asked to self-isolate. This kind of behaviour is not acceptable; it is spreading the virus in our community and putting others at risk. We are doing all that we can to keep everyone safe, we want everyone in our community doing the same. We understand that it is difficult but we have three weeks to get through now and we want it to be a positive end to a very difficult year for all of us.

- Stay at home and do not mix with other families if you have been asked to self-isolate
- A negative test does not allow you to leave home if you have been asked to self-isolate
- If your child has been sent home as they have had close contact with a confirmed case, they should not leave the house
- Do not approach staff on the gates and have direct contact face to face - all communication must be via telephone to the school office or via email
- Wear a face covering and keep your distance at pick up and drop off
- Arrange PCR tests (the ones that get sent to the lab NOT the LFT home test kits) if asked to
- Avoid mixing with other households, sleepovers, indoor parties, close contact with those who should be isolating
- Households should be testing regularly
- If your child has not been asked to isolate, they should attend school and not be kept at home for no reason
- Children who are self-isolating must complete the remote learning set for them.

We will continue to support you as much as we can, free school meals will be provided to those entitled to them if they are asked to isolate. Please note that if you are in the position of needing to take time off work to look after a child who is self-isolating, you may be able to get some financial support. You can find more details and check your eligibility for this payment at www.wirral.gov.uk/covidpayment. The payment scheme is being administered by Wirral Council and any queries can be directed to COVID19foodteam@wirral.gov.uk.

Thank you so much for your patience and ongoing support of our school during such a difficult time.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns, please get in touch.

Take care, stay safe and protect our school.

Kind regards,



Mrs Emily Morris
Headteacher



Mr Andrew Symonds
Chair of Governors