



Dear Nursery Parents / Carers,

As we mentioned in our earlier letters, we have been considering how best to extend our provision at Eastlea for Nursery pupils. After a long discussion with Mrs Shimmin and the Nursery team we are proposing a phased return for children in this class, bearing in mind the following factors:

- the large numbers of pupils who want to return (or start!) their Nursery journey at Eastlea
- the need to maintain small groups in order to encourage social distancing as far as we can
- provision of the right staffing levels to support pupils' needs [*we are aiming for a ratio of 1 adult to 2 children*]
- prioritising the 'older' children who will make the transition to Reception in September
- allowing time for deep cleaning between groups

To ensure we do our best to meet the above criteria we have been able to organise either:

- **1 full day per week for our 30 hour pupils** – these pupils will need a packed lunch which they will eat in Nursery at lunchtime (8.45am – 3.00pm)
- **2 half days per week for our 15 hour pupils** – these will either be morning (8.45 – 11.45am) or afternoon sessions (12.20 – 3.20pm)

N.B. Online activities shared via Tapestry will still be provided for those who are not returning to Nursery using the successful systems established by Mrs Shimmin over recent weeks.

Phased return plan

Dates	Which children will begin their return to Nursery
Week beginning 8 th June	1 full day (Mondays) will start for our 'older' 30 hour children 2 mornings (Thursdays and Fridays) will start for our 'older' 15 hour children <i>Plus...individual visits on Tuesday 9th June for 'new Nursery' pupils who have yet to start Eastlea (and have said they do want to start before September if possible!)</i>
Week beginning 15 th June	1 full day (Tuesdays) will start for our 'younger' 30 hour children 2 afternoons (Thursdays and Fridays) will start for our 'younger' 15 hour children

Nursery organisation

All groups of children will be based within the Nursery classroom with familiar staff (Mrs Shimmin, Mrs Broughton, Mrs Hoggan and Ms Pickard) – but things will look rather different. Zones and 'activity spaces' have been set up inside the room and children within their 'small group bubble' will use their own equipment for any tasks they do. Much of the time will also be spent in the outdoor areas – and the children will remain on the Early Years yard, and will not access the main playground to maintain distance from other groups in school.

All of the resources they need will be provided by school, and we ask that **no toys**, reading folders, books etc are brought into school as we have to limit the number of items which are being transported between home and school. Please make sure that your child does still bring **a bag with a change of clothes** to school each time they are here in case they have an accident and require changing. If your child requires any **medication** then staff will also need to be made aware so that the necessary paperwork can be completed.

Arrival times, collection times and which gates to use

As part of our whole school policy we have organised a system to stagger the arrival times and use specific entrance gates in order to reduce the number of pupils arriving at any one time and to stop the number of transitory meetings (passing another child/parent).

Nursery pupils must come in through the **MAIN SCHOOL GATE** (not the newer side gate). We recognise that adults of Nursery children need to be able to accompany them onto the school site so **ONE adult** will be allowed to walk round with them. You should head RIGHT, round towards the door that you would usually collect them from and wait at the tall gate – please stand on the yellow lines 2m apart from other parents/children. Mrs Shimmin or one of the other Nursery staff will greet you and take the children in. **It is important that you keep your child next to you at all times.** Please do not arrive too early, and if the gate is not open then please wait.

Timings for arrival and collection are:

	Arrival	Home time
Full days	8.45am	3.00pm
Morning sessions	8.45am	11.45am
Afternoon sessions	12.20pm	3.20pm

Providing comfort and self-care

Eastlea staff are so used to providing 'comfort' when it is required for children in Nursery if they are distressed at separation from parents, but the new regime that we must now follow will have to be different. We are unable to provide a high level of physical comfort (sitting on knee, hugs etc) and if your child is particularly distressed in school and our experienced 'distraction techniques' do not work successfully, then we will contact you to come and collect your child so they are not left upset for too long.

For those children who require it, self-care will be carried out when needed and staff will have the necessary PPE to enable them to do this carefully and safely for both your child and themselves.

Uniform

In line with the arrangements made for the rest of the school, we are encouraging pupils to wear Eastlea school uniform just as they always would have done. Please do not worry if you do not have this available – especially those who are new to our school. We have a few sweatshirts in stock and will be ordering more for September, so in the short term perhaps just a white polo shirt/trousers or blue 'school' summer dress could be worn. A coat/lightweight waterproof will also be necessary as the children will be outside for several activities.

Guidance suggests that where possible, clean clothes should be worn each day and if you could support us with this that would be great.

Snacks

Staff will continue to provide a snack for the children during each session, but no money is required for this.

Lunchtimes

The school kitchen will not be open. For those children staying all day on either Monday or Tuesday then children need to bring a packed lunch and drink (**nothing containing nuts or seeds please due to allergies**). Pupils will eat their packed lunches in the Nursery classroom. We ask that children also bring their own named water bottles as this is a protective measure to limit the need to share cups in school.

Sunny weather

Sun hats should be brought into school each day and sun cream applied which will last for the full session that your child is in Nursery as obviously at the current time we are unable to reapply.

Cleaning

Ongoing cleaning will take place during the school day, there will be cleaners in each evening and also a deep clean on Wednesdays in Nursery so that everything is set for the next groups of children.

Handwashing

One of the most important protective measures as we all know is regular handwashing. Please make sure that hands are washed before you leave home and again when you return. When in school, children will be required to wash their hands at frequent intervals throughout the day. We have sourced some 'kinder' soap so this will hopefully help to protect children's hands/skin a little better!

Helpful things to reinforce with your child

We realise it is not easy with young children, but if you could support us with encouraging your child to follow the new protective measures which have been put in place that would be very helpful, *e.g. reminding them of the importance of regular hand washing, asking them to keep their distance from others when they are in school, sticking with you when they are waiting to come in/heading home etc.*

Arrangements for families who are key workers/vulnerable

We will continue to work with families of Nursery children who have additional requirements for them to be in school. If you require your child to be in for extra days then they will be in the library base with the small group of Early Years children. Please discuss with me any specific circumstances linked to this and we will do our best to accommodate what is required.

We are looking forward to welcoming your child back to Nursery at Eastlea but are aware that the protective measures/risk assessments involved will need to be continually reviewed. We may need to revise some of these measures as we start to move through the coming weeks and ask that you bear with us if there are teething problems with some of the new systems.

Please also take a look at the '**yes please ☺, no thanks ☹**' checklist which I prepared when the new arrangements were shared with the rest of the school and if you do have any questions or something is causing you concern then ring me in school.

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher