

Eastlea update - 27/3/20

Dear Parents/Carers,

In this period of enforced closure I feel it is important to 'keep in touch' and will aim to do a short letter each week with any Eastlea updates! **WHAT A STRANGE WEEK THIS HAS BEEN!!** It feels so odd not to be in daily contact with everyone – and I know that those who I have spoken to by phone are feeling this too. I'm aware how challenging things must have been since Monday and want to say **THANK YOU** for the way that you have supported your children to make sense of what is going on and also to keep them focused with some school work during the week.

Working at home

Staff have been in communication with individuals and class groups via Tapestry (Early Years) and Seesaw (Y1 to Y6) to provide support with ongoing activities and suggested tasks. This system is working well and I hope you are finding it useful. It was lovely to see all the rainbow pictures this week and I know they have made everyone smile!

Special thanks must go to Miss Betham who has worked incredibly hard to ensure that everyone from Year 1 to Year 6 has had the opportunity to log on and access class based resources and activities using the SEESAW app. If anyone is still not up and running with this then if you email eastleaseesaw@gmail.com with your child's name then she will provide you with the necessary codes/log on details to get started.

Please don't feel that the children have to be doing school work all day every day! If they do an hour or so Monday to Friday that would be great – and they can also top up this time with reading, TTRS or Spelling Shed if this is appropriate for your family. We know how precious internet/wifi time is at the moment especially with parents working from home, so please plan a timetable that fits with your family. Any work they do can be shared via Tapestry or Seesaw so that they can keep in touch with their teachers.

Lunches for pupils entitled to Free School meals

Until the government voucher scheme comes into force (perhaps sometime next week?) then we are continuing to provide packed lunches for families of pupils entitled to free school meals due to low income. These can be collected from the school kitchen at 12noon each day – and several families are making good use of this offer. If anyone else wants to come and collect a meal (or have one delivered if you live outside of Cramlington) then please contact school to arrange the details. As soon as we hear more about the voucher scheme and how it will work we will let you know.

Contacting school/staff

Due to the fact that so many parents have heeded government advice to stay at home and work from home if at all possible, we have had VERY LOW numbers of pupils who have needed to have child care provided by Eastlea staff this week – thank you! Staff numbers in school are therefore also very low and the office will not be manned constantly by the admin team.

If you wish to contact us then please either:

- Ring school and leave a message (but be aware that we may not pick up messages straight away)
- Send an email via the 'contact us' section on the school website
- Leave a message via the school Facebook page
- Send a message to your child's class teacher via Tapestry or Seesaw.

In the meantime, stay safe and healthy and if you think we can help in any way then just let us know.

Yours sincerely,
Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher

