



Eastlea update 5/3/21

...full reopening next week!!



Dear Parents / Carers,

On **Monday 8th March** we will be able to reopen for **ALL pupils in ALL classes!** This is an exciting time, but could bring mixed emotions and the staff are aware of the different experiences that everyone has had since we were last altogether as an Eastlea 'family' on 18th December 2020.

We will do our best to help support and tackle any anxieties that the children (and yourselves) may have in the coming days – whether this is for the majority who have been learning at home away from their friends for the past two months, some who have 'got used' to being in a classroom with just a small group of their classmates, those who have had direct experience of Covid within their family/friendship group and others for whom the impact of the recent lockdown has been an isolating/distant experience.

Thanks to Seesaw/Tapestry/Zoom we have worked hard at Eastlea to stay connected, and **what is absolutely sure is that all the staff are delighted at the prospect of having their full classes back for face to face teaching!**



Arrival/departure times and safety rules/procedures

Please refer to the information shared last week to make sure you and your child(ren) are aware of the expectations for the return to school on Monday.

It will be great to see everyone, but compared to recent weeks it will feel 'busy' at the drop off and collection times so please help us with this and **do not linger around the school site, make sure only one adult accompanies your child to school, keep your children WITH you if you are coming onto the site (up to Y4 only), wear a face covering and do not gather at or around the school gates – THANK YOU!**

Update on clubs/activities

Schools have been given the go ahead to restart clubs for pupils as long as we are following Covid secure guidelines. Our plans for this worked successfully in the first half of the autumn term until the enforced restrictions in November curtailed our efforts. Some clubs cannot be arranged until after Easter but our aim for the next 3 weeks is to get started with what we are able to started straight away:

Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.45am each day). <i>This costs £2.50 per day.</i>	KS2 Professional football coaching for Y3/Y4 on Tuesdays (£2 per session)	'Virtual family clubs' – Dance Blast and football – which can be accessed by all year groups from home
	Rugby Rocket Tots for Y1/Y2 on Wednesdays (£2 per session)	KS2 Singing Club for Y4/Y5 on Wednesdays
	Woodland Walk club for a different year group each week on Wednesdays	Badminton club for Y6 on Thursdays
	Running Club for Y4, Y5, and Y6 on a rota basis on Thursdays	Grassroots Gymnastics club for Y2/Y3/Y4/Y5 on Thursday evenings (5.30pm – 7.00pm; £5 per session)

N.B. Letters for the clubs will be sent out next week and for families who have already paid money for some of the sessions, we will be in touch next week to confirm the arrangements.

Rocksteady Bands

The Rocksteady music sessions will be continuing on Tuesday mornings in the school hall from 9th March. If anyone else wants to join one of our 5 bands – **Reception, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6** – then further details can be obtained by ringing Rocksteady directly (Tel: 0330 113 0330).

Advance notice – Easter holiday Eastlea sports ‘camp’

Due to the positive response to the Grassroots Gymnastics club which ran during the autumn term (and is continuing from next week), **we have agreed to host 4 days of sport/activities at Eastlea over the Easter holidays led by Grassroots (Monday 29th March – Thursday 1st April)**. Trained sports coaches will be on site – on the field outside weather permitting – leading a range of different organised sporting activities. There will be a charge for the 4 days, but it is an excellent chance for your child to be active with their friends over the first week of the school Easter holidays. **Covid secure guidelines will be followed which means that this will be purely for Eastlea pupils and the integrity of class bubbles will remain intact.** *Please put the dates in your diary – and we will share more information about this next week!*

World Book Day Challenge

Thank you for getting involved with our **World Book Day** activities yesterday. Vouchers for money off books have been distributed and we hope you are able to make use of these to buy one of the books this year – the selection seems very good! There is a link on our school Facebook page to support with this. If you want to take part in our **‘design/dress up a potato’ challenge** then please do get involved. How creative can you be with your potato? Please feel free to bring in your potato book characters next week – they will be a good talking point when the children get back with their friends!

Free School Meal Vouchers

Please note that the Huggo voucher for this week will be the last one before the children return to school. As from Monday 8th March Free School Meals will be provided in the usual way for those who are eligible.

Covid reminders and testing update

As we said last week, although it is great to be returning to school, we must remember that there is still a long way to go and strict Covid restrictions will remain in place. There are many families who are still facing very real dangers from Covid and it is vital that we protect each other and keep safe. Once again can we stress that:

- **If a child/anyone in your household has any symptoms of Covid then you should not attend school, inform us immediately and book a PCR test.**
- **As the children return to school in larger numbers please do all you can to minimise contact/mixing between households/‘bubbles’. THANK YOU!**

Eastlea staff will be continuing their routine of twice weekly testing using rapid lateral flow devices (asymptomatic testing). **In addition to this it was announced last week that from 1st March households with school age children can also test themselves twice every week at home.** The twice weekly tests can be accessed:

- Via employers if they offer testing to employees
- At a local test site
- By collecting a home test kit from a test site
- By ordering a home test kit online

Please note that these lateral flow tests are only to be used if you have NO SYMPTOMS. They are used to indicate those who may be infectious but are asymptomatic. **If you have any of the usual Covid symptoms (high temperature, cough, loss of sense of smell/taste) or suspect you may have Covid then you must book a PCR test straight away and not rely on a lateral flow test.**

This [guidance](#) provides information on who can be tested and how you can get a test if you feel that this is something you would like to consider.

We look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 8th. If you feel you need more information or we can help in any way then please let us know and have a good weekend!

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher

