



I have been amazed, as I'm sure you have, at how quickly things are changing almost hour by hour as regards the actions needed to tackle the uncertainties around the Coronavirus pandemic. These are certainly unprecedented times and we are working hard to keep up with the official advice from the government and the NHS and this underpins all the actions we take.

The latest information (as of 16/3/20) is that...

- if you or anyone in your household has either a new continuous cough or a high temperature/fever then you should stay at home for 14 days.
- even if you don't have symptoms the advice is now to stop non-essential contact with others and to stop all unnecessary travel.

So what does this mean for Eastlea? Here are the latest answers to some frequently asked questions.

Do I need to keep my children off school if one of them has a new cough/fever? YES

If one of your children is ill with a new cough/fever this means that all your children should be off school and if possible no one in your household should go out.

The attendance register code for any children who are required to self-isolate in this way will be 'Y' which is an exceptional circumstance and means that **the attendance percentage for your child/the school will not be affected**

Are school events and activities being cancelled? IN SOME CASES YES

We have been notified of some cancellations of pre-planned events, e.g. the athletics for Y3/Y4 which should have gone ahead this morning, the Y1/Y2 girls football festival next week and Y4 rugby festival for the start of April will not now go ahead. The Children's Cancer Run, which had been scheduled for May, has also been changed to 20th September.

In light of the latest advice we have decided to postpone the class photos which were due to be taken tomorrow morning as well as parent appointments next week. *I realise we only put the letter out to arrange them yesterday, and apologise for the inconvenience, but things seem to have moved on a long way since then!!*

What about residential visits for Year 5 and Year 6?

Year 5: we have spoken to Hawkthirst this morning and are making arrangements to postpone the visit, which had been scheduled for a fortnight's time, until September/October. Payments have already been paid and finalised for this visit.

Year 6: there are no plans to change the York visit as yet as this is much later in the year. Payments should continue to be made as normal.

Will Eastlea remain open? YES – for as long as we can

At the current time the government are advising schools to stay open as long as they have enough staff to ensure the health and safety of their pupils. At the moment we have no plans to close Eastlea unless we are directed to do so, so it remains business as usual. We are being rigorous with handwashing routines and your continuing support with this is appreciated. We are advising pupils to wash their hands: on arrival, after break, before/after lunchtime, before they go home.

Can my child bring their own water bottle to school for use each day? YES

As we texted yesterday, if children want to have their own water bottle in school at the current time then they can do so, but please make sure that it is named. Children without their own water bottle will have individual cups for drinking which will be labelled for them in school.

Are normal lessons/in school activities continuing? YES

As far as we are concerned normal lessons are continuing and as many clubs, activities and school events as possible will still be going ahead, e.g. the sports coaching for tennis, rugby, Pilates and dance; our gymnastics, singing, swimming, Y6 SATs, KS2 Professional football, rugby rocket tots woodland walk and running clubs etc.

Will work be provided for children if they have to self-isolate or the school closes?

If pupils are unable to attend school due to coughs/fever/self-isolation or closure then year group staff are busy putting together a homework project style 'grid' of possible activities which could be done at home to support any missed learning in school. These will be made available for children in each class and from the school website.

We are also aware that there are several **FREE** online resources which would support learning at home and these may be worth a look – see below for more details.

FREE online education resources

General

Khan Academy – www.khanacademy.org

BBC Learning – www.bbc.co.uk/learning/coursesearch

Futurelearn – www.futurelearn.com

Ted Ed – <https://ed.ted.com> (educational videos)

National Geographic – www.natgeokids.com/uk/ (Activities and quizzes for younger children)

The Kids should see this – <https://thekidshouldseethis.com> (wide range of educational videos)

Cbeebies Radio – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio> (listening activities for younger ones)

Nature detectives – <https://naturedetectives.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/> (things to do in the garden)

Oxford owl – <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/> (free resources for primary age)

Twinkl – www.twinkl.co.uk/offer (use code PARENTSTWINKLHELPS - free resources)

Maths

Times Table Rockstars – www.ttrockstars.com (children in Y2 and above have a log in)

Numbots - <https://play.numbots.com/#/intro> (children in Y1 and above have access)

English

Spelling shed - <https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb> (children in Y2 and above have a log in)

Computing

Blockly – <https://blockly.games>

Scratch – <https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/games>

We will keep you updated with any further developments for Eastlea as and when they become available – and suggest that you also refer to online guidance which is being updated daily.

Your support in these difficult times is appreciated!

Yours sincerely,
Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher