



# Eastlea update - 22/5/20



Dear Parents/Carers,

The end of another very busy week! Thank you to all those in the targeted year groups who have been in touch with us since last Friday letting us know your thoughts about a return to school. There is still much uncertainty nationally around the question of whether we will be expanding our provision from 1<sup>st</sup> June but we have to have a plan for this and as you can imagine there has been lots of work going on in school to enable this to happen if it is needed. Since my last letter we have:

- Removed some furniture from all classrooms, limiting the number of desks/chairs to allow for only one per child at 2m distance; and rearranged the library to enable this to be used as a base for some pupils
- Removed all soft furnishings and items 'difficult to clean' from all class/group bases, and ensured that plastic chairs have replaced 'comfy' seating in offices, the entrance hall and staff room at a 2m distance
- Deep cleaned all the classrooms, corridors and toilets
- Arranged for additional cleaning materials to be available, e.g. hand wash, sanitiser, anti-bacterial wipes, pedal bins/buckets, disinfectants etc
- Ensured that adequate 'PPE' has been arranged for staff who may be required to work closely with a child (e.g. those requiring first aid or support with personal care)
- Completed risk assessments to ensure as many possible scenarios as we can have been considered
- Set up individual trays/stationery sets for pupils who are returning
- Cordoned off play equipment and set up separate boxes of resources which can be used by different groups of children
- Considered group lists, rotas, timetables and arrangements for the day to day safety of pupils and staff
- Made 2m social distance 'markings' on pathways
- Identified and prepared an 'isolation room' for pupils showing any signs of illness where they can stay safely until they are collected by parents

There are still other things to sort next week, but we do now have an outline plan in place if it is needed from 1<sup>st</sup> June:

1. We are going to initially stick to our top priority of having Reception/Year 1/Year 6 children working with their class teacher for 2 days per week in half class groups in the classrooms they are familiar with (although they do look a little different with the separated desks!)
2. At the same time we will be retaining extended provision for children of key workers/vulnerable families from across the school and these groups will be based in the Year 3/Year 4 classrooms and the library.

## Further details for those in Reception/Year 1/Year 6

If you have made the decision for your child to return to school then by the end of today you will get a message from your child's teacher outlining which 2 days per week your child has been allocated in school from 1<sup>st</sup> June. Work will also be provided for them to do at home on the other days. By the middle of next week you will receive confirmation of the requirements/do's and don'ts/arrival arrangements etc. These will be sent electronically but paper copies will also be provided when you/your child comes to school that week. If there is a change in Government guidance about the return date then we will inform you as soon as we hear!

For those who have opted to keep their child at home then work tasks will still be provided by your child's class teacher using systems which have been established in recent weeks.

I know many parents/families were unsure what to do about a return and I am aware that there has been a lot of soul searching about what to do for the best. If you want to discuss this further or change your mind and would like your child to return at some point in the coming weeks please contact us to discuss this. For those families who have not yet contacted us with their decision it would help with our planning if you could get in touch.

## Further details for those in Nursery

Almost everyone has responded to Mrs Shimmin to let her know your intentions regarding a potential part time return with a phased entry a little later in June. Now we know our potential numbers we can start to plan how groups can be accommodated safely and ensure that the team of 4 Nursery staff can support this

effectively. We will be in touch in w/b 1<sup>st</sup> June to provide more details of a timetable of what this may look like, once we see how the reintegration of pupils from other classes has progressed.

For those who are not thinking of having their child back in Nursery at the moment then suggestions for activities from Mrs Shimmin will continue to be provided via Tapestry.

#### Further details for those in Year 2/Year 3/Year 4/Year 5

As from 1<sup>st</sup> June class teachers will still be providing work using the systems which have been in place now for several weeks. Daily/weekly work suggestions and resources will be provided via Seesaw or in paper based work packs.

#### Further details for those who are keyworkers/vulnerable families

Arrangements that are in place now for children in any year group will be able to continue, and if your child is in Reception/Year 1/Year 6 then when they return they can have 2 days in their 'class' groups as well as any other time that is required in the key worker/vulnerable group as far as we can accommodate. If anyone has any queries about this then please contact me in school.

#### 'Half term' arrangements

If life had been 'normal', next week would have been the May half term holiday. We strongly feel that the children need a break next week, so daily work tasks/packs will not be provided for the holiday week – hopefully you can relax as a family and enjoy some summer weather?!

Eastlea is closed on Bank Holiday Monday but will still be open to provide care for a small group of key worker/vulnerable pupils on the other four days of 'half term'. Details of this have already been confirmed with those who are involved.

#### Advance notice – a date for the diary!

Yesterday we had this email from Gill Smith (Cramlington School Sport Partnership Coordinator and School Games Organiser):

*"I am delighted to share with you that the **Northumberland, Tyne & Wear Virtual School Games** will take place on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June between 10.00am – 3.00pm.***

*The School Games will be targeted at both Primary and Secondary aged children and young people and will cater for children still at home or children who may be in school.*

*The event will be on the newly formed YouTube channel as well as uploaded to other social media channels.*

*There will be different events/competitions/activities – all of which require minimal equipment and are socially distanced (other than the 'Family' section which is targeted at children still at home and runs over school lunchtime).*

*Every hour on the hour there will be activities for Primary aged students and on the half hour there will be activities for Secondary aged students.*

*More information will follow – including a programme and information on how to access – but we wanted you to have the date in your diary. Please start sharing this with your families as soon as you have the opportunity."*

We think this will be a positive experience and something we would like to encourage as many people as possible to get involved in – so please put the date in your diary.

#### AND FINALLY – THANK YOU!!

I have just been shown the video compilation containing all of the thank you messages from so many of the children – **ABSOLUTELY SUPERB!** It was so lovely to see everyone and I really appreciate the comments and kind words. We are a fantastic EASTLEA TEAM and I can't wait until we are back together again properly!! *[N.B. We will do our best to share an edited version on the website next week, but there are some permissions we need to check first!]*

Until then please stay safe and well!

Yours sincerely, Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher

