



Dear Parents/Carers,

This is a newsletter I never thought I would have to write – explaining that **Eastlea Primary will be closed after today ‘for the foreseeable future’ for all classes**. You will all be very aware of the announcement made on Wednesday that all schools will be closed across the country as part of the measures being taken to help to tackle the Coronavirus pandemic.

There remain many uncertainties around this situation for children and families and we have worked hard over the last two days to talk things through with children, liaise with parents and ensure that an extremely difficult situation is handled as calmly and sensibly as possible.

In practical terms this is the situation we find ourselves in:

- Eastlea will be closed from the end of Friday 20th March (today)
- The government is emphasizing that if it is at all possible for children to be at home then they should be. In exceptional circumstances, vulnerable children or those whose parents/carers work in keyworker categories (as outlined on the DfE website) and have no alternative child care arrangements we are aiming to provide care for a limited number of children at Eastlea over the coming weeks. *[A separate letter outlining arrangements will be sent to the few for whom this applies.]*
- Pupils entitled to **Free School Meals** due to low income will apparently be issued with vouchers according to government guidelines, but this system is not yet in place. In the short term parents of pupils entitled to FSM can still come to school to collect a packed lunch from the Eastlea school kitchen at **12noon Monday to Friday during school term weeks**. It would really help us to have an idea of the number of lunches which will be required, so please can we ask that you ring school on Monday morning before 11am if you intend to come and collect a lunch from us on school days.
- Suggestions for work to be done at home have been provided in the form of an activity grid for each class which can be accessed from the school website. Additional links to online learning resources have been provided in the newsletter sent out earlier this week and on the school Facebook page.
- Staff will aim to add to the suggested work for their year groups over the coming weeks as required.
- National assessments including SATs tests have been scrapped for this year and we are assuming that end of year data will be based on teacher assessment.
- School events for later this academic year will be under constant review and decisions will be made as we get further through the period of closure (depending on how long this is), e.g. the Year 6 York visit etc.
- If you wish to contact school then there will be some office staff in to check for phone messages, or messages can be sent via the school Facebook page or the admin email via the school website.
- We will keep you informed via text/website/Facebook with any updates on developments but will be following national guidance on when we can reopen.

I'm sure I echo the thoughts of everyone in hoping we can get back to school as soon as possible and resume the quality education provision at Eastlea that we care so deeply about.

Please stay safe and healthy, and support each other in the coming weeks to follow the government guidance in terms of social isolation so that we can 'beat this virus'!

We will miss you all!

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher