

Eastlea update - 12/6/20

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I am sure you have come to expect, every week there seems to be a new national announcement relating to schools which then impacts on the provision we can offer at Eastlea. This week, which marks the 12th week of our 'closure' has been no exception!! Now we know for definite, what had been clear to us all for a long time, that due to the social distancing restrictions in place we will not be able to welcome ALL children back in ALL classes full time before the end of the summer term and have to hope that the government's vision of trying to ensure things look far more 'normal' for September can be realised. I really do hope that this is what happens – but that is 11 weeks away and it would be wrong to look too far ahead yet, as so much can (and understandably, will) change during this time.

How are things going so far with Eastlea's expanded provision?

Once again I am pleased to note that we have had another successful week as we have welcomed back more children to Eastlea. It has been especially lovely to see the smiling faces of our Nursery pupils who were very keen to 'bounce' into Nursery for their sessions this week and see Mrs Shimmin and the team of Early Years staff again! We have also welcomed a few more children into our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 'bubbles' as well as some into our vulnerable/key worker groups. Everyone has tried so hard to follow the new schedules and restrictions and we are very proud of them all.

Nursery next steps in w/b 15th June

As from next week we will be having our younger Nursery pupils back to school for either one full day (Tuesdays) or two half days (Thursday/Friday afternoons) per week. The arrangements for this and practical advice on where to come in, which gate and at what time were shared with those involved last week and we look forward to seeing you all soon. The Nursery visits for our newest members of the 'Eastlea family' also took place successfully on Tuesday 9th this week and once again everyone has been very careful to follow our guidance and take the necessary safety and hygiene precautions – THANK YOU!

Taking on more pupils from Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5

In a letter for parents/carers of these year groups earlier this week I outlined a proposal to expand our provision at Eastlea even further. We are just waiting for the last few families to confirm with staff whether they would be interested in their child(ren) coming back to school from w/b 22nd June for two days a week for the last four weeks of term. Once we have the final numbers then we can see what we will be able to accommodate and my aim is to finalise a plan with staff on Monday and then let you know the details on Tuesday. **If you have yet to let staff know your thoughts then please do so by 3.15pm today.**

Eastlea Sports Awards



This week we were really proud to be presented with two **special School Games marks** recognising Eastlea for our ongoing commitment to sport in the autumn and spring terms this year as well as **our support, commitment and engagement of virtual sports programmes during the Lockdown as well**. This could not have happened without the support from parents/carers.



Thank you to everybody who has completed the different sports challenges and sent in photos of different sporting achievements and activities. It's been great to see families enjoying keeping active together!

Virtual School Games – Friday 19th June

As we mentioned in an earlier newsletter, we are really excited that Miss Smith and the School Games team have decided to hold a Virtual School Games that we can be involved in **both with the children in school and at those at home**. The link for the day is www.tynewearsport.org/vsg20

The day will start at 10am with an Opening Ceremony starring a special guest. Throughout the day there will be challenges suitable for children from EYFS through to secondary age. They've all been delivered by local clubs and sports providers and have been designed for children to practise on their own with minimal equipment. The School Games team have worked hard to ensure that content is relevant for all children whether they are in school or at home and for a wide range of ability levels.

We will be sharing more information on Seesaw/Tapestry and Facebook as it comes out next week. **It would be fantastic if as many Eastlea children and families as possible could take part.** We understand that there are going to be prizes on offer for some of the events and we expect there to be opportunities to show off sporting and creative talent...which we know our children/families have in abundance!

So, fingers crossed for some better weather next week and on Friday in particular as we join in with the Virtual Games!

In the meantime, whatever the weather, please take care, stay safe and protect each other by remaining cautious and following the social distancing and hygiene rules.

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher

