



Eastlea countdown to full reopening



14/8/20...19 days to go!

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a safe and positive first 4 weeks of the school summer holiday and that all is well with everyone. I thought it was time to let you know what has been happening at Eastlea since the end of the summer term and how we are preparing for the full reopening for all pupils in September. **In 19 days time it will be Wednesday 2nd September and we will be welcoming back all pupils in all classes.** We can't wait!!

Preparation for our full reopening

Lots has been done to get the building ready to welcome all the children back:

- we have removed the furniture which had been stored in the school hall during lockdown and returned it to the class bases
- tables and chairs are now ready in the classrooms, with forward facing seating plans and limited soft furnishings
- the Early Years classrooms have started to return to their more usual appearance with activity tables and learning zones
- our outdoor area for Early Years is still shaping up – with mud kitchens, wipeable climbing equipment, sand pit, digging zones, shaded seating and storage boxes for easy pupil access to resources
- additional soap dispensers have been added to toilet/sink areas where we felt more were needed
- an appropriately spaced layout of the lunch tables has been trialled in the dining hall so that we know we are able to offer lunches for all pupils from September which is great news. We have had to order a few more tables/benches to ensure that classes are sitting separately and no child is sitting facing another child when they eat their lunch
- county contractors have also assessed the state of the roof and are putting a plan together to fix the longstanding problems which we have had to face for many years

Re-open Day

As outlined before the holiday we will be hosting an **'Eastlea Re-open Day' on Thursday 27th August from 10am – 2pm.** We hope that as many families as possible will pop in during the day to see the layout of their classroom, meet their teacher, collect copies of lunch menus and school uniform (see below) and find out the plans for the start of term, what will be expected and how we will be ensuring a smooth transition back into school for all of the children.

We will clearly not be able to host everyone at the same time, so would ask that you plan to pop in at a time convenient to you and do not come with friends all at one time! If we have too many at once, some will have to wait before they can come in! Put the date in your diary and we will share more information about this next week.

Advance notice of start/finish times for different year groups as from Wednesday 2nd September

Our schedule of 'staggered' arrival/departure times worked extremely well in the summer term and we aim to continue with this arrangement for the autumn term. More details will be shared by class teachers on the re-open day, but this is an outline of what we will have in place:

CLASS	START	FINISH
Nursery (main gate)	8.45am	11.45am (15 hours) or 3.00pm (30 hours)
Reception (main gate)	9.00am	3.00pm
Year 1 and Year 2 (side gate)	9.00am	3.00pm
Year 3 and Year 4 (side gate)	8.45am	3.15pm
Year 5 and Year 6 (main gate)	8.45am	3.15pm

Phased entry for Nursery and Reception

- All **Nursery** pupils will be in school for the morning sessions from September (8.45 – 11.45am). Those who are eligible for 30 hours will stay all day (3pm finish). *[N.B. Some of our youngest new Nursery pupils will not return until Monday 7th September – but this has already been outlined to those involved].*
- **Reception** pupils will have a slightly 'phased' start to ensure staff can best support their transition. Mrs Atkinson will be in touch to explain precise details, but for the majority in the class this will involve attending for the mornings on Wednesday 2nd/Thursday 3rd September (9am – 12pm) then morning and lunch on Friday 4th September (9am – 12.30pm) before full days from Monday 7th September (9am-3pm).

Summer food vouchers

Any families entitled to the summer food vouchers should receive the final voucher from Edenred today (14th August). This is the last voucher because from September normal systems will be in place for provision of lunches in school.

School uniform

There will be an expectation that pupils return to school in full Eastlea school uniform in September including black school shoes and with a PE kit. If you still need to order uniform then this can be done in the final week of the school holiday (w/b 24th August).

We have been promised delivery of some more school uniform in the last week of the holiday so for those still awaiting the sweatshirts, cardigans and/or reading folders which were pre-ordered we very much hope that we will have these available in time for the re-open day.

Other items for the start of the new term

- **Water bottles** – all children will need to bring in a named water bottle which they will keep in their classroom each day
- **Hand sanitiser** – children will be allowed to have a named hand sanitiser for personal use with them in school
- **Pencil cases** – all stationery will be provided for children in all classes – pupils must **not** bring in their own pencil cases
- **School bags and reading folders** – these **will** be allowed in school from September. The children can bring in their bag and/or reading folder/book bag with reading books, school books, PE kit etc
- **School lunches** – we will be serving school meals to all classes and prices for school meals will remain the same as before (£2.30...except for Nursery full day pupils who will pay £2)
- **Breakfast club** – we will be restarting breakfast club each morning for £2.50 per day. Children can arrive via the main entrance for this any time from 7.30am – 8am and they will have their breakfast and activity time in the library overseen by Eastlea staff
- **Owlets parent and toddler group** – we are still awaiting further advice on when this can restart

Autumn term events and activities

We have all learned during this pandemic that it is hard to plan ahead with any certainty as procedures can change at a moment's notice. However, we have already been considering the format of the many Eastlea events and activities which take place during the autumn term. We will have to change how many of them are run BUT it is our aim to retain as much as we can, albeit in a different format, for the benefit of the Eastlea pupils. We will let you know in the new term any outline plans we have in place.

We are very much looking forward to seeing everyone again soon!

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher

