

Eastlea update - 17/4/20

Dear Parents/Carers,

I'm sure it will have come as no surprise that it has now been announced by government that the 'lock down' will be continuing for another 3 weeks (at least). This means that the summer term, due to start on Monday 20th April, will begin in the way the spring term ended, with Eastlea closed. I remain optimistic that we will return before the end of the summer term and am very much looking forward to when we are given the go ahead to do this, although I recognise it won't be for several weeks yet.

School access/opening

We think we are aware of any families who will need to have children in school for any days in the coming week(s). If you have not confirmed the details with us, and are a critical worker or a parent/carer of a vulnerable child and have no alternative means of childcare then please send an email or message via Facebook so that appropriate arrangements can be made for supervision in school. Please remember that children will need to bring a packed lunch with them if they are in school over lunchtime as the school kitchen is now closed.

School work at home

For the vast majority of families the routine of school work being done at home will continue from Monday. After the Easter 'break' some ideas for work that can be done at home, including Maths and English, will be shared with you via Seesaw/Tapestry and some activities are included on the school website. **I want to reiterate what I said in an earlier update that there is no expectation that the children sit and work on school tasks for hours and hours every day – this is not good for either them or you!** If they do an hour or so Monday to Friday that would be great – and they can also top up this time with reading, TTRS or Spelling Shed – whatever fits in best for your family.

You may also like to take a look at the **BBC Bitesize** website <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> which from Monday 20th is starting some daily lessons which can be viewed on TV/iPlayer. Bitesize resources are normally of good quality and might be useful.

Keeping in touch

Please continue to encourage children to share any work that they do via Tapestry or Seesaw so that they can keep in touch with their teachers. It has been great to have contact from many families and remember the staff are on hand to help if additional support is needed. As I said last week, please don't be surprised if you get a phone call from me or a member of staff if we have not heard from you for a while. It is important that we are able to check that everything is okay while the children are not in school every day.

Vouchers for families entitled to Free School meals

There has been a national 'outcry' about the difficulties in getting the vouchers sorted out, but I am pleased to say that we are making progress and I can only thank again those involved for their patience. Most families have now had codes emailed through to them for 2 weeks and many have managed to redeem them so that they can be used in local supermarkets. If you have received codes and are still awaiting confirmation emails with E-gift cards please be patient and I really hope that they will appear soon.

If you are still awaiting initial emails from Edenred, then check your junk/spam email and if they are still not there then get in touch with me in school.

And finally...the Easter egg design competition

We were delighted with the interest shown in the design competition which was running over the Easter 'holiday' and how involved some families became in the project! Staff are awaiting any late entries this weekend and will then select a winner from each class. Prizes will be delivered to the winning children (and a winning parent!) early next week.

Thank you again for getting involved.

Stay at home, take care and stay safe and well!
Yours sincerely, Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher

