



Covid Eastlea update

31/12/20



As you will no doubt be aware, today the north-east, in common with many other areas of the country has entered a period of Tier 4 restrictions. There were government announcements yesterday about this and also on the updated procedures for schools. Having taken some time to understand the implications of the measures I wanted to inform you that **Eastlea will still be able to open for the spring term as planned – thank goodness! We will therefore be looking forward to welcoming back all pupils from Tuesday 5th January.**

I am still amazed that we made it through the whole of the autumn term without having to ask pupils/staff members to self-isolate or close a class 'bubble'. **When we return next week it is absolutely essential that we maintain the strict measures that we had in place so that we continue to keep each other safe and minimise the risks of spreading Covid.** Your support with this is much appreciated.

Reminders of our ongoing protective systems and procedures

- **Parents/carers who are coming onto the school grounds to drop off or collect children from school must wear a mask or face covering** (unless they exempt from doing so)
- Please make sure that when you arrive at school to drop off or collect your child you do not arrive too early. Standing around is difficult for pupils if they have to wait for long periods of time, so please come for **8.45am (Nursery/Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6) or 9am (Reception/Y1/Y2) and do not come any earlier** *[unless a separate arrangement has been made for families with multiple siblings]*. New afternoon Nursery pupils will be starting at 12.20pm.
- We must insist that only **ONE adult** accompanies your child to and from school. This limits the number of people who are congregating on site or at the gates and makes it safer for all concerned. **We are aware that until secondary schools return you may have older children who are not in school, but would ask that they do not accompany you to Eastlea or congregate at the gates.**
- Please stand on the **2m markers** while you are waiting for the gates to open – this means that social distancing regulations are observed.
- Windows and internal doors are open in school to allow for adequate ventilation and airflow. Please make sure your child wears their school jumper/cardigan so they stay warm inside the building and it is fine for them to wear extra layers that 'fit in' with the school uniform too!
- Breaks and lunchtime will be outdoor wherever possible and children should have appropriate coats/hats/scarves/gloves and footwear. If children have **wellies** in school then they can make better use of the field for as long as we can if it is not too wet and muddy.
- PE sessions will be outdoors wherever possible for KS2 children – so warm **tracksuits** would be more suitable for lessons.
- Children should have their own **water bottle** with them each day. This reduces the number of times they need to leave their class base to access drinking water elsewhere and therefore helps to protect the integrity of the 'class bubbles'.
- We are continuing to limit any visitors who are invited into school. Any visitors who do need to come into the building need to wear a mask/face covering.

And of course remember... **if your child or anyone in your household exhibits COVID symptoms then do not attend school, inform us immediately and seek a test.** The systems we will follow if/when we get a positive test outcome for a child which would mean closing a class bubble and asking children/staff to self-isolate remain in place and you will be informed about this as soon as possible where required.

Happy New Year in advance - please take care, follow the guidelines and stay safe!

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher

