



Tuesday 24th August 2021

September School Opening – Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and that you have been able to enjoy the summer break with your family. As we draw nearer to the start of the new academic year, I wanted to write to parents/carers with some reminders and updates in preparation.

Children start back on **Monday 6th September** and we cannot wait to welcome everyone back! 😊

Notices and Reminders

School Uniform	<p>Please ensure that your child/ren are in the required school uniform for Easterside Academy.</p> <p>A poster for both the school uniform and PE uniform was shared with parents towards the end of the summer term. It can also be found on our Twitter feed, as well as in 'news' on our website.</p> <p>Uniform was relaxed in the summer term due to the pandemic as we didn't want to put undue pressure on families to have to buy new clothing/shoes when it was so close to the end of the academic year. In September however, we will expect all children to be appropriately dressed. This expectation is also in place for our PE uniform.</p>
PE Days / PE Uniform	<p>We have decided to keep some of the practice we put in place over Covid-19.</p> <p>Once children find out which day/s they will be doing PE in their new class, they will be expected to come to school on those days, ready in their PE uniform. We found over the last year that this helped ensure children remembered their PE days and solved the problem of forgotten kits. From the feedback we had, many of you also found this practice worked better for families at home.</p> <p>I do again want to stress however that children will be expected to come dressed in our PE uniform and should they arrive to school not appropriately dressed, a phone call will be made home asking parents to bring a school uniform up to school.</p>
Covid-19 Restrictions - update	<p>Many of the Covid restrictions have now gone as you will be aware. In schools this means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Normal start and finish times will resume. ✓ Classes will NOT be in bubbles and children will be able to mix. ✓ Assemblies will resume.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ After school extra-curricular clubs will begin to resume. ✓ Visits and visitors in school can resume, including parents/family. ✓ Face masks / coverings are not required to be worn – personal choice.
<p>Covid-19 Practice Remaining in Place</p>	<p>As a school we will continue to follow DfE and Government guidelines, including risk assessments remaining in place and contingency plans should there be any outbreak.</p> <p><u>The safety of pupils and staff will remain our priority.</u></p> <p>Some of the practice remaining in place within our risk assessment include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regular handwashing to continue e.g. entering / exiting classroom and returning from outside. ✓ Continued cleaning of surfaces during and at the end of the school day. ✓ Handwashing / sanitising stations available around school e.g. Main entrance for visitors; every classroom; staff room; team planning room; library etc. ✓ Opening of windows and doors frequently to improve ventilation. ✓ Good respiratory hygiene adopted by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach within school. ✓ PPE will be worn by adults when dealing with poorly children/staff or attending to first aid. ✓ Staff will continue to undertake twice weekly home tests until the end of September when this will be reviewed by the Government.
<p>Positive cases of C19 - Close Contacts / Isolation</p>	<p><u>This guidance is correct as of the date of this letter.</u></p> <p>Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing. As with the wider public, Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by Test and Trace where the positive case and / or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.</p> <p>Individuals are NOT required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with Covid, or are a close contact of someone with Covid, and any of the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *they are fully vaccinated. *they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months. *they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved Covid vaccination trial. *they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons. <p>Instead they will be contacted and advised to take a PCR.</p> <p>If a pupil or staff member tests positive with a lateral flow test, they should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will need to get a PCR test to confirm within two days of the LFD test.</p>
<p>School Start and Finish Times</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Key Stage 2 door near the hall will open for all KS2 pupils at 8.40am. Children should not be on the school yard before this time unless they are with a parent. If your child walks to school please make sure they don’t arrive prior to 8.40am.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Early Years (Nursery/Reception) and Key Stage 1 classroom doors will open at 8.45am. ✓ <u>All external doors will close at 8.55am.</u> ✓ Any child arriving after this time will need to enter via the main entrance so that they can be registered in school for the day. This procedure is in place for safeguarding purposes. ✓ The whole school will finish at 3pm. Where possible please walk to school to collect your child/ren or if driving, park away from the school grounds (e.g. at the shops/church) and walk over. This is to help prevent congestion and keep our children safe. ✓ If your children is in upper KS2 and you would like your child to walk home from school themselves, if you haven't already, written consent must be given. Staff will be on the KS2 yard on the first day back with consent forms if you wish to sign and set this procedure up. Children will not be able to walk home unless this has been done.
Attendance	<p>The statutory rules for school attendance start again from Monday 6th September. Attendance will continue to be monitored. Calls and/or home visits will be made if children are not in school.</p>
The Behaviour Policy	<p>All pupils are expected to follow our school rules: SAFE – READY – RESPECTFUL</p> <p>The behaviour policy is now fully back in place post Covid-19 and can be found on our website in 'Policies'.</p> <p>We also actively promote our school values through everything we do: DETERMINATION – RESPECT – SELF BELIEF – HONESTY – TEAMWORK – PASSION</p> <p>Any behaviour that falls below what we expect will be addressed in line with our policy and working closely with parents and agencies.</p> <p>This includes behaviour that puts pupils and staff at risk of infection, including deliberately coughing, spitting at another person. This behaviour will not be tolerated.</p>
PD Days / Dates	<p>Dates for the academy year and term can be found on the website in 'News' and either the calendar or 'events'.</p> <p>PD Day – Friday 17th September</p> <p>PD Day – Monday 11th October</p> <p>We have one further PD Day to plan for and will let you know the date as soon as possible.</p> <p>Our additional Bank holiday for the Queen's Jubilee this year is: Monday 16th May School will also therefore be closed on this day.</p>

Any changes to the information above before we start back will be communicated as soon as possible. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 6th September! 😊

Best Wishes,

D. Linacre

Mrs D Linacre
Principal



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