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EASTRY CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
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CT13 0LR

Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I wanted to start by saying thank you to you all for adapting and setting up home school at the beginning of January with very little notice. I have been pleased to see the learning the children have continued with at home. That said we are really looking forward to welcoming all children back to school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, some aspects of 'normality' returning. Thank you for your understanding as we navigate through these exceptional circumstances, many of the operational guidelines that will be in place will be familiar to you and the children as they are close to those we had before Christmas.

Each year group will be acting as a 'bubble'. The idea is that children remain in their bubbles. Therefore, the following procedures are to aid the protection of each bubble.

Below are the drop off and collection times as outlined previously.

<b>Year group</b>	<b>Drop off time</b>	<b>Drop off location</b>	<b>Collection time</b>	<b>Collection location</b>
<b>Fledglings</b>	8:40-8:45	Through gun park gate	15:15	Through gun park gate
<b>Year 1 and 2</b>	8:35-8:40	Through gun park gate	15:05-15:10	Through gun park gate
<b>Year 3 and 4</b>	8:30-8:35	Through the gate near the bins	15:00-15:05	Through the gate near the bins
<b>Year 5 and 6</b>	8:30-8:35	Through gun park gate	15:00-15:05	Through gun park gate

We will be asking you to say good bye in the mornings to your child by the gun park gate (socially distancing in the park, it is important that parents and carers do not crowd the gates). Children in Year 3 and 4 we will be asking that you say goodbye at the main school gate. Fledgling parents will be allowed onto the playground to help transition their child into school and will be met at the Fledgling's gates. Unfortunately, we will not be able to welcome parents and carers into the school building at this time. If you have children in multiple year groups we ask that you wait

outside of the school until their time slot (This should be no longer than 10mins for any year group).

For collection we will be asking you to queue in socially distanced lines outside your child's classroom door (there will be signs to assist you and videos posted on class dojo nearer the time). Please be patient as children are dismissed and maintain social distancing, when leaving the gate, we ask that you leave space for others entering and exiting. Please ensure that any children you have with you stay close to you and do not go on the apparatus or benches (as we have to designate these for each bubble). We ask that adults continue to wear masks at drop off and collection when coming into the playground.

**Communication with teachers:**

As you know teachers are normally happy and able to chat to you before and after school. Due to the tight turn around, for your children and staff safety please refrain from having long conversations at drop off and collection. Staff will be happy to receive contact via dojo messages or call and leave a message at the office and we will be happy to help. We can arrange a call back if necessary.

**Parking:**

The main school gates will be shut to ensure the safety of children and families entering this way. Please may I ask that you drive and park considerately in the village including if you are using Bubbles Nursery.

**Classrooms:**

Videos from each class teacher will be uploaded onto Google Classroom and Class Dojo by 5<sup>th</sup> March so you can share these with your children. We will also send home a short social story about returning to school.

**Outdoor Learning:**

When possible, learning will occur outside in the bubble's designated outdoor zone. Please make sure you children have coats in cold and wet weather and hats/ sun cream on in warm weather.

**Playtimes:**

Playtimes are staggered, each bubble has a designated zone outside. They are supervised by the staff in their bubble.

**Lunchtimes:**

Lunchtimes will also be staggered to reduce crowding and maintain social distancing between the bubbles. Year R, 1 and 2 will eat in the hall. Year 3-6 will eat in the classrooms. Again, they will be supported by the staff from their bubbles. Children in Years 3-6 who have school dinners will have these delivered to the classroom in takeaway style containers.

**Sport and P.E**

PE activities will be outside activities only until guidance changes. On PE days, children will wear their PE kits into school so they do not have to change. Teachers will notify you of your child's P.E day via class dojo

**Resources to and from home.**

We are limiting the resources that children bring to and from home. Therefore, please can we ask that toys and games are kept at home as usual please. Scooters and bikes also cannot be left on site. The children do not need to bring in a pencil case as they will have all their stationary provided. They may bring in a bag, lunchbox, water bottle (containing water only please), snack (fruit only please) and outer clothes dependant on weather.

**Reading books:**

We will be sending home reading books for you to enjoy with your child. To reduce the contamination each year group bubble has designated books to change from. We also continue to have access to online books through Oxford Owl and Myon. Books in our outdoor library will be removed from 8<sup>th</sup> March as children will receive their reading books in school. However, this shed will remain open for exchanging things such as plant seeds and for other things in the future.

**Other Information & Important Guidance:**

Class bubbles will remain tightly monitored and mixing of bubbles restricted where possible.

Signs and markings are to aid social distancing in shared areas.

Every class has a handwashing/sanitising station.

Whole school collective worship will be postponed. We will hold these virtually to maintain our whole school community ethos.

Parent events will be virtual until guidelines change. We will inform you of these.

Everyone in the building will socially distance as much as possible, washing/sanitising facilities are provided in every classroom and time to observe regular washing/sanitising built into structure of the day.

Additional cleaning is occurring in the classrooms.

Every room is stocked with several boxes of tissues, sanitising materials and this will be ongoing.

No shared use of cups, crockery, fabric resources, musical instruments that are blown, etc. Children will need to bring a named drink bottle daily.

When indoors sufficient ventilation in all rooms will be maintained, if it is cold children may wear additional layers under their school jumpers.

Under the current government guidelines uniform does not need to be changed daily. It does also not need to be washed differently to normal.

**Reconnecting and re-establishing in school**

At Eastry we put the child's well-being at the centre of our thinking. We acknowledge that the children will have had different experiences during this time. However, the common thread running through all is the loss of routine, structure, friendship, opportunity and freedom. These losses can trigger anxiety in any child.

We know that an anxious child is not in a place to learn effectively. So, with this in mind, the school community has thought about the most effective way to support each child's ability to learn. This approach will encompass and support the academic expectations for each child.

Like in September we will be dedicating the first two weeks of our return to school to re connecting with the class, through PHSE lessons and re-establishing routines and expectations. We will use this time to make assessments of where each child currently is, using a range of activities, and tasks.

### **Early morning club**

Early Morning Club will continue. Drop off for this will be through the hall doors from 8:00. As before, we are asking that you book and pay for this service in advance, this ensures that we can staff it appropriately.

### **After school clubs**

We hope to start some after school clubs soon and will be providing further information in due course.

### **Remote learning**

In the event of a bubble closing or children having to isolate remote learning will be provided via google classrooms again.

I must remind you however that even with school reopening lockdown has not ended and therefore out of school lockdown restrictions must be maintained.

We appreciate parents and carers support in this on-going situation. We are amazed with the efforts you have all shown at home and by the children who have come into school throughout lockdown, despite it feeling unusual. We will keep you updated with any changes, and thank you for understanding as we respond to the ever-changing situation. The messages of gratitude have meant a lot to us, thank you. Please do contact the school if you have any questions or concerns, we will be happy to help.

We can't wait to see you all on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and welcome all of the Eastry School family back. Take care.

Kind regards



Sarah Moss  
Headteacher