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EASTRY CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Thursday 26th August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have had a good summer and been able to enjoy some quality family time and enjoy some aspects of 'normality'. We are very excited to be welcoming the children back in a few days time. As I mentioned in my last letter there will be some changes with restrictions largely lifting which I have outlined below. Thank you for your understanding as we continue to navigate through these exceptional circumstances, I apologise now for the lengthy letter. Please be aware that we could have to change plans and reintroduce restrictions should guidance change or if we see a rise in cases locally and nationally.

Drop off and collection

8:35-8:50am: for all year groups (Fledglings please follow your part time timetable initially), entering through the **gun park gate**. We will still encourage the children to be independent and say goodbye before coming through the school gate, although we appreciate for younger children and on some occasions for older children parents and carers may need to speak to a member of staff at the classroom door. We will continue to use class dojo to support communication between home and school.

Collection will be at 3:25pm, parents and carers may come onto the playground to collect their children.

To aid the movement of people we ask you come through the gun park gate but leave through the gate at the front of the school (acting as a one way system).

Face coverings

We will no longer be asking adults to wear face coverings outside for drop off and collection but we respect that you and some staff may wish to continue to do so. However please wear a face covering when entering the school building unless you are exempt.

Communication with teachers:

As you know teachers are normally happy and able to chat briefly to you before and after school. However, if you require a longer or private conversation we may ask to contact you at a mutually convenient time to enable staff to be with the children. 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 large main gates of the school will be shut to ensure the safety of parents, carers and younger siblings leaving the school site. We ask those of you who are travelling by car to drive and park respectfully in our community.

Playtimes:

We will allow children of different year groups to mix during playtime. Morning play will be held in infant/junior groups. At lunchtime we have designated one of the playgrounds for our younger children.

Lunchtimes:

Lunchtimes will return to children eating in the hall, both packed lunches and school dinners. Our dinner menus are available at <https://wholeschoolmeals.co.uk/menu-for-primary-schools/>

School uniform:

To foster a sense of pride and unity amongst our school community school uniform must be worn every day except on your child's forest school day. The school uniform for all children is as follows:

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| • Trousers/Skirts/Pinafores/Shorts
(children in Fledglings can wear tracksuit bottoms if they prefer) | Grey or Black |
| • Polo Shirts/Shirts/Blouses | Pale Blue |
| • Dresses | Blue/checked/striped |
| • Sweatshirts/Cardigans | Navy Blue |
| • School Shoes | Black |

Sweatshirts, polo shirts, cardigans, T-shirts, fleeces, coats and rucksacks with the school logo embroidered in colour are available to order through our supplier Brigade Clothing Uk. Jewellery is not permitted. Long hair should be kept neat and tidy and away from their face. Hair accessories should be discrete (e.g no large headbands/ bows/ animal ears).

Forest School:

Every class will participate in forest school this year. Their classteacher and our Forest School Teachers (Mrs Ginny Harvey and Mrs Lucy Gleave) will communicate your child's forest school day.: **Your child may come to school dressed in their forest school clothing.** Please can children wear the following:

- layers with long sleeves and trousers (in warm weather they can have these in a bag to put over the top) this is to prevent scratches, bites and stings
- named wellies and waterproofs in plastic bag accessible every week.

The children will go outside in all weathers so it is important they are appropriately dressed.

Sport and P.E

Classteachers will communicate their P.E days via their class newsletter and class dojo. Children are now able to bring their P.E kit into school to get changed. This can be left on their peg. Our P.E kit is as follows:

Indoor PE (all classes):

- White T-shirt
- Navy shorts
- Plimsolls or bare feet

Outdoor Games(all classes)::

- White T-Shirt, polo shirt
- Navy Shorts, games skirt, jogging bottoms
- Trainers

During cold weather children are encouraged to wear a sweatshirt and/or tracksuit bottoms, plain in the school colours. Please note football kits are not permitted

Swimming (for years 2, 3, 4 and 5):

- One piece swimming costume
- Swimming trunks

Our cloakroom space is very limited so we would appreciate it if sports bags are kept as small as possible. We would ask that all uniform is clearly labelled so that, if lost, it can be returned to your child.

Resources to and from home.

The children will have their daily classroom resources provided for them and therefore they do not need pencil cases. **We ask that children do not bring in toys, fiddle/fidget toys or games in from home as these can become lost or broken.** Children may bring bikes or scooters to school but we ask that they are not ridden on the school playground but instead pushed and parked in the bike/scooter shelter.

Collective Worship

Collective worship will resume in the hall for children. On Fridays we will invite families to join us at 9:00am for family worship. We ask that adults wear face coverings as you will be inside the school building. The dates for each family worship will be communicated via the school newsletter. These will also be recorded and shared via class dojo.

Early morning club

Early Morning Club will resume from **Thursday 2nd September 2021** (20th September for Fledglings). Drop off for this will be through the hall doors from 8:00am. Please book and pay for your children's places in advance.

What to do if your child is displaying covid 19 symptoms.**The current most frequent symptoms of covid 19 are (NHS):**

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, even if they're mild:

1. Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have COVID-19 as soon as possible.
2. Your child should stay at home and not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get the test result – they can only leave home to have the test. [Check if you and anyone else your child lives with need to self-isolate.](#)

We appreciate parents and carers support in this ongoing situation as we feel our way through the next stage of the pandemic. We will keep you updated with any changes, and thank you for understanding as we continue to learn how to respond to the ever-changing situation. The messages of gratitude have meant a lot to us. Please do contact the school if you have any questions or concerns, we will be happy to help. We have also included a leaflet from HM Government and NHS for your information.

We can't wait to see you all on Thursday 2nd September and hear what you have been up to over the summer. It will be great to welcome all of the Eastry School family back. Take care.

Kind regards



Sarah Moss
Headteacher