

Eastwood Community School

Victoria Avenue, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD21 3JL

Telephone: 01535 610212 | Fax: 01535 210238

Website: www.eastwoodcommunityschool.co.uk

Email: office@eastwoodcommunityschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. Suzanne Carter



02.11.2020

Dear Parents & carers,

We hope this update finds you well rested and in positive spirits after your half term break. Behind the scenes, lots of work has been going on from safeguarding to fielding Covid related calls, texts and emails and other administrative tasks to ensure we are in as clear and strong a position as possible ready for the 2nd half term of this extraordinary year.

Some changes have been made to the school's Risk Assessment following more guidance from the DfE released just before we broke up. These constitute the 6th set of amendments made to the school's risk assessment which we shared with you all prior to our full opening in September, making an average of a re-draft every week! Please familiarise yourself with the changes below and do ask for further clarity should you need this. The full risk assessment can be requested from the office.

- Masks / visors – updated guidance recommends that all visitors to site should wear face coverings, as per our texts to you. Staff on door / yard duty may also wear visors if they wish as an extra layer of protection. We have put up new signage around school and staff on duty will remind everyone coming on to site to wear masks or visors. Thank you in advance for your support.
- Visitors – all visitors to site are still only permitted where absolutely necessary ie for children with SEND or similar / to monitor health & safety etc.... All visitors must wear face coverings while on site, observe our school risk assessment in full and must also sign a track & trace declaration so we can notify them in the event of any possible contact.
- Ventilation – all rooms must continue to be well ventilated, even through the colder months therefore windows will be left ajar to ensure this is possible. We will still have the heating on but, if your child reports feeling cold in school, they may wear extra clothing. This should be **as plain as possible, and as close to school colours as possible**. A good example would be a plain black fleece top worn over the school jumper. There is no expectation to buy extra clothing; please use things you already have at home.
- The Nursery will now have to operate as 1 bubble as we have some pupils who are accessing 30 hours provision. In the event of a positive case, the whole bubble (am & pm) may therefore have to close.
- The Reception bubble will also operate as 1 bubble due to toilet access issues identified last half term. In the event of a positive case in either class therefore, both bubbles may need to close.
- Some changes have been made to staff rooms to further help staff keep their distance from one another while on breaks.
- School's Covid mobile phone Line. This has been in use since the fortnight before half term. Photo proof of test results (positive or negative) is requested to be sent to this phone and this has been working well so far.
- Track & Trace App – information about how to best make use of this while in work has been shared with staff.
- Lunch arrangements – food will now be served in classrooms on plates with cutlery and there will be more hot options available from this half term. The junior leaders have been involved in deciding on this menu and are very excited about it! Catering staff will support the Lunchtime staff to deliver the meals to the classrooms and also to serve the food out onto plates. Whilst this will take some getting used to, and may take more time



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initially, it will offer a better quality product and service to the children, which is good. Staff serving food must observe additional hygiene protocols including the wearing of gloves and visors.

- Additional home testing kits have been ordered from the DfE to support any pupils and their family members who, for whatever reason, are unable to get to a testing centre in the event they present as symptomatic.
- Wellbeing communications with staff and family members isolating continue to take place and are reported as being supportive, which is good.
- Pupils eligible for Free school meals continue to have weekly food parcels for lunches delivered to their homes or, in the case of just children in the family isolating as a precaution (as a result of bubble closure), parents are asked to collect from school. These are provided in addition to breakfast products and home learning packs, which are available to all pupils isolating for whatever reason. If you would like to check whether your child is eligible for free school meals (please note these are different to the universal meals normally offered to all Reception, year 1 and year 2 children)
- Contact tracing & keeping everyone as safe as possible – it is **imperative** that we have correct, up to date information about **anyone in your household or you have been in contact with who is presenting with possible symptoms or who has been for a test** in order that we can keep everyone safe. Please **do not** come into work if the above applies, or even if you are unsure, please **phone a member of the Leadership Team, the school number or the Covid mobile number** and someone will be able to advise you. This includes evenings, weekends and holidays.

As you will know, the whole of West Yorkshire is now under Tier 3 Covid restrictions. Please ensure you are familiar with the information poster sent home with this letter so you can keep yourself, those you love and your community safe at this time. Thankyou.

The amount of work and commitment of the senior team to ensure we are compliant with regulations and keeping everyone as safe as possible is second to none and I would like to publicly thank all those who have been involved in making our school the safe place it is over these past 6 months.

There is a long road ahead of us all and, as we are now in Tier 3 lockdown, things have and will become more challenging. No doubt there will be lots more changes and revisions in the coming weeks and months but we will make the best of them, as we always try to do. Thank you all for your patience, commitment and dedication to keeping Eastwood Community School a positive, thriving place to work and learn in.

Stay strong, be kind, work together and communicate well. If you don't know something or are worried about something, please speak to a member of staff.

Kind regards,
Mrs Carter.

