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# EASTWOOD NEWS

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## TIME TO CELEBRATE!

### COVID RESTRICTIONS

We hope that this newsletter finds you all well and keeping yourselves and your loved ones safe at this time. Whilst there are still some restrictions in place and challenges ahead of us all, there is much to celebrate and enjoy. The hopeful further easing of Covid restrictions from May 17<sup>th</sup> will hopefully take us another step further to more 'normal' lives. In school, we will be making some small changes to our risk assessment beginning with a return to year group bubbles, rather than class bubbles from next week. This is a minor change but it will hopefully have a big impact for our pupils and staff. All other arrangements will stay in place: staggered start/finish times, extra cleaning, Friday lunchtime closure, separate entrances, handwashing, mask wearing on site etc..... We will carefully monitor the national situation and make adjustments as per Government advice and we will of course keep you up to date with these as they happen.

### EID CELEBRATIONS

For our Muslim families, there is also the festival of Eid to celebrate next week. As usual, we have allocated 2 holiday days to allow our families and staff to celebrate this month. As Eid does not have a set date when it falls, we have to wait each year to be guided by religious leaders however we believe that, **for most Muslims, Eid will fall next Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> therefore school will be closed on these 2 days next week.** Should Eid for some Muslims be declared on Wednesday, we will be able to honour absence for this date but we would ask that **only families who must celebrate on this day do so; those not celebrating on Wednesday are expected to be in school.** ALL pupils are expected to be back in school as usual on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May. This day will be a whole school **non uniform** day and classes will hold Eid celebrations in the afternoons so party clothes are encouraged. Our kitchen team will also be making special Eid picnic lunches for all our school dinner pupils. Should children wish to bring party food to enjoy during the afternoon, they are welcome to do so but, because of Covid restrictions, we would ask that you send just enough food in for your own child; sadly we will not be able to share food out as we would usually do. May we take this opportunity to say Eid Mubarak to all our families celebrating. We wish you a happy and safe time celebrating.

### SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN SUMMER 1

Our focus for School Development this half term is CREATIVE ARTS. We will be working towards producing a gallery of work at the end of the term which will hopefully (weather depending!) be outside for everyone to see. Classroom staff will be working hard delivering a range of creative, exciting and outdoors based lessons all term as well. Check out our Twitter page ([https://twitter.com/ECS\\_Keighley](https://twitter.com/ECS_Keighley)) for regular updates. You don't need to be a Twitter

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

As part of the easing of restrictions, the DfE have now announced that schools can begin running after school clubs again, as long as they are outside, which is fantastic news and something else to celebrate! Watch this space for further details of what sessions will be available, when and for which year groups.

### PLACES IN SCHOOL

If your child, or someone you know has a child who turns 2 or 3 this year and you want a place for them in our pre-school or nursery, please phone the office ASAP as places are filling up quickly. Also, if you want a Reception place in September for your 4 or 5 year old, please contact us to discuss this so that you don't miss out on a place. We will shortly be sending out flyers, please feel free to pass these on to family or friends who you feel might be interested. Thankyou.

### UNIFORM

Please remember your child must wear **plain black shoes** for school and, if they are in year 5 or 6, a **school tie** as well. We now have a stock of ties at the office, please phone if you would like to buy one. Please also note, as the weather can be very changeable, all children must have a coat in school each day.

### SAFER STREETS SCHEME

Please note that plans for this Council led scheme which would see access to Victoria Avenue restricted at the start and end of the school day have been put on hold until September.

### FRIDAY CLOSURE FEEDBACK

We had a fantastic response to our questionnaire last month about changing our school week in September to continue closing school at lunchtime on Fridays. The majority of the responses were very positive and appreciative of this plan. Some families were concerned about lost learning time. In considering this, especially in light of the amount of learning time lost during Covid, we would like to reassure you that we would not just intend to lose 2 hours of learning time every week! As part of our plans, we would look to alter our start / finish times by 5 minutes and reduce lunchtime to 45 minutes which would add an additional 25 minutes per day onto current learning time and possibly close at 12:30 rather than 12:15 on Fridays. This would ensure no learning time was lost during the school week. From having spoken to some families about this, they have been very positive about these plans and we hope this will reassure those of you who were concerned about this that there will be no lost learning time for your child(ren). Plans are currently being considered by Governors and Trustees and we will be back in touch with further updates shortly.