

# East Hunsbury Primary School

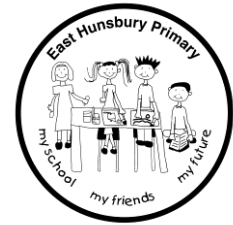
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2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope you and your family are well. Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we collectively handle the challenges posed by Covid-19.

You will no doubt have seen the Prime Minister's announcement last week that schools will re-open fully, for all pupils, from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We are looking forward very much to having all children back in our school, and want to assure you that – as has been the case throughout the coronavirus crisis – we will ensure the school is as safe as it possibly can be. Your child's health, and the health of all our pupils and staff, is always the most important factor for us.

There are a number of specific points about the full return to school that I wanted to set out in this letter, which I hope are helpful.

What key measures will we be undertaking at East Hunsbury Primary School?

- Conducting a thorough risk assessment so that we are totally clear how our schools need to be adapted to meet the Government's guidelines on keeping safe.
- Keeping cohorts of children together and not allowing them to mix with other groups.
- Following the Covid-19 guidance on cleaning in non-healthcare settings. This guidance includes very regular handwashing, access to hand sanitiser across the school and more regular cleaning within the school throughout the school day.
- Staggering school start times, break times, lunch times and pick up times.
- Zoning the playground so that the groupings remain separate from each other during the school day.
- Use play equipment that will be available to each group so equipment is not shared beyond this group.
- Limiting the number of pupils using the toilets or hand washing at any one time.
- Asking all parents/carers to ensure that if their child needs to be accompanied to school, only one parent/carers should attend to do this.
- Requesting that parents/carers/older children do not gather at entrance gates or doors.
- Requesting that Parents avoid travelling to and from school by public transport.
- Promoting social distancing within school as far as we can, with children being outside as much as possible.
- Encouraging staff and families to walk or cycle to school where possible.
- Asking parents/carers to phone or email the school with enquiries rather than calling in to the school office.
- Ensuring that visitors to the school are kept to a minimum.
- Ensuring all parents wear a mask when on the school premises.

To ensure the risk of infection coming into school is as low as possible, Government advice remains to check for the key symptoms of the virus. If a staff member or child has symptoms, then the current guidance regarding self and household isolation continues to apply. An isolation area will be available in school for children who develop symptoms during the school day. If a positive test is returned, the whole group and staff member will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days.

Headteacher: Mrs R Arundel



## Frequently asked questions - what you need to know before your child returns to school:

### Will testing take place in school?

- Primary school children **will not** be required to be tested for Covid-19 when schools re-open to all pupils on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.
- However, any child who develops Covid-19 symptoms should self-isolate immediately, as they have done throughout the pandemic and according to Government guidelines.
- Our staff will continue to test themselves twice weekly at home.

### Who needs to wear a mask?

- Primary school children **do not need** to wear a face covering when in school.
- Face coverings should be worn by primary school staff and adult visitors when moving around the school. We therefore ask that parents wear face coverings when visiting the school, and when dropping off or collecting children.

### Will the school still have bubbles?

- Yes – we will have Year group bubbles in Mainstream. This will now replace class only bubbles.
- There will be 2 bubbles in the SU; Blue Class will join the Mainstream Reception bubble. Green, Purple, Orange, Yellow and Red classes will form a separate bubble.

### Will you stagger the beginning and the end of the day?

- Yes – to reduce the risk of transmission, we will continue to stagger the start and end to the school day in order to make the flow of footfall into the school grounds manageable and allow as much social distancing as possible. Therefore, please note below the drop off / collection times and access points relevant to your year group:

Year Group	Drop off Time	Teaching Begins	Collection Time
Reception, Years 2, 3 and 5 (including Blue Class)	08.35	08:55	15:20
Years 1, 4 and 6	08.45	09.00	15:30
SU (Green, Purple, Orange, Yellow & Red)	08.55	09.10	15.40

The school will have two designated entrances and one exit, as follows:

- Gate 1 on Penvale Road, near mini roundabout – **ENTRANCE gate for Yr R, Yr 1, Yr 2 and SU**
- Gate 2 on Penvale Road, near zebra crossing – **ENTRANCE gate for Yr 3, Yr 4, Yr 5 and Yr 6**
- Gate 3 on Rowtree Road, near all-weather pitch – **EXIT gate for all parents and pupils**

**In order to control social distancing, due to our narrow pathways, parents and pupils are asked to only use the above entrance gates and exit via the all-weather pitch only – to create a one-way system. Please note, this is a change from existing arrangements and will come into effect from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Parents are also reminded to wear a face-mask whilst on the school premises.**

We know this means extra walking, but we are trying to reduce the potential risk of spreading the virus. We ask parents not to congregate in groups on the school premises or at the school gates, but drop off their child and leave promptly. The Trim Trail is out of bounds at the beginning and end of the school day.

**Please remember the car park is only to be accessed if you have a child in the SU or if you have a disabled badge or if you have written to me to ask for permission for other extraordinary reasons. For safety reasons we cannot have all parents/carers accessing the car park. Where possible we would ask everyone to park safely on the road and walk into school using the allocated gates and pathways.**

Please make every effort to adhere to the above times. If for any reason you are late arriving for morning drop off, you should proceed to your child's classroom door until 9.15am. After this time, latecomers should enter via the main school office and a late mark will be recorded.

Families with children in multiple year groups can choose their designated entrance gate / time.

#### **How will classes be set up?**

- In the majority of classes, tables and chairs will be set up in rows so that no pupils are facing each other. Individual class teachers will have reviewed where pupils will sit.
- Each pupil will have their own set of resources in an individual wallet on their desk space, to limit movement around the class.

#### **Will the children wear Uniform & PE Kit?**

- Children in Mainstream and the SU will return to wearing school uniform every day. Please find below a reminder of our uniform expectations as we want all the children to take particular pride in their appearance when returning to our school community.

<b><u>Uniform</u></b>	<b><u>PE Kit</u></b>
<p><b>Boys</b>            Grey Trousers            Green, White or Yellow Polo Shirt (Logo or Non Logo)            Green E.H.P.S. Logo Sweatshirt or            Green E.H.P.S. Logo Fleece Jacket            Black Sensible Shoes</p> <p><b>Girls</b>            Girls - Grey Skirt, Pinafore or Trousers            Green, White or Yellow Polo Shirt (Logo or Non Logo)            Green E.H.P.S. Logo Sweatshirt, Cardigan or            Green E.H.P.S. Logo Fleece Jacket            Summer dresses (green or yellow check) are permitted in warmer weather only            Black Sensible Shoes</p>	<p><b>P.E. Kits</b>  <u>Plain</u> black or grey track suit bottoms / joggers / leggings or shorts  <u>Plain</u> white t-shirt            Trainers (no football studs)            EHPS Green jumper / sweatshirt (no hoodies) – <b><i>this is your child's regular green school jumper (or fleece). Logo hoodies / sports jackets are not permitted.</i></b></p> <p>Pupils should attend school on their allocated PE / Dance days already wearing their PE Kit.</p> <p>No jewellery should be worn in a P.E. lesson. Consequently, earrings should not be worn on P.E. days. All earrings must be removed in order for children to participate in P.E.</p>

- On the day's children do PE / Dance (see below for a reminder), they should come in to school in PE kit / jogging bottoms. Again, we ask parents to read the above PE Kit reminder to foster a pride in returning to EHPS . Please ensure the children are wearing the correct School PE Kit. Arriving in school wearing the appropriate PE kit will remove the necessity to change clothing whilst in school on the following days:

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>PE / Dance days</b>
Year R	Thursdays
Year 1	Tuesdays and Thursdays
Year 2	Tuesdays and Wednesdays
Year 3	Mondays and Tuesdays
Year 4	Mondays and Wednesdays
Year 5	Tuesdays and Fridays
Year 6	Wednesdays and Fridays

### **Will Kids Club be open?**

- We have been advised that Kids Club will re-open on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Any parent already enrolled with kids club will receive direct notification from them with regard to their specific arrangements.

### **What are the Lunchtime arrangements?**

- There will be no change to the current arrangements. **If you would like your child to have a school meal, you will need to pre-order your meal choices via your School Grid account.** Alternatively, please provide your child with a nutritional packed lunch from home.

### **What should my child bring to school?**

Children are discouraged from bringing items into school in order to reduce the spread of the virus. If children are bringing their own lunch, please can this be placed in a named lunch box. All children will require their own clearly named water bottle, which they should bring to school daily. All food containers brought into school should be thoroughly cleaned / sanitised at home daily. School bags should **not** be brought into school until after Easter. We will continue to send reading books home in named plastic re-useable bags for the time being - this will be under constant review. These measures are in place to control the amount of possessions coming into and out of school, again, aimed at controlling the spread of the virus.

### **What about behaviour expectations in school?**

These are really difficult times and the safety of our school re-opening depends on the measures we are putting in place, but also your support for these required measures and your child understanding and following every new, but extremely important, expectations around social distancing / behaviour - it all forms part of our Risk Assessment. A Covid-19 Addendum to our Behaviour Policy has been added to our school website & can be located under the Coronavirus Menu.

### **When will extra-curricular Clubs return?**

Where necessary, we are currently planning for clubs to return at the beginning of the summer term (after the Easter break), to enable parents to access work, education or medical care. We have asked all school club providers to supply a risk assessment before the end of the current term and we plan to meet with each of them to discuss the measures they have in place, as current government advice is for clubs to maintain the same bubbles the pupils are in during the school day.

**Government advice also states that where parents are using external childcare providers or out of school extra-curricular activities for their children, schools should:**

- **Advise parents to limit their use of multiple out-of-school setting providers, and to only use one out-of-school setting in addition to school as far as possible.**
- **Encourage parents to check providers have put in place their own protective measures.**
- Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

### **Can I pop into school if I have a general query?**

Parents will be asked to not visit the school office, but to instead call or email with a general enquiry. We need to keep foot-flow through the building to a minimum to not only protect the pupils, but the staff as well.

Parents will not be allowed access into the school building to speak to the teacher at the beginning or at the end of the day. Please continue to use Class Dojo as a mechanism to liaise with your child's Teacher. If you need to arrange a meeting with them, we will confirm a date, time and meeting place – we have to consider our cleaning regimes before and after school visitors.

**What happens if a child / staff member is unwell with symptoms of Coronavirus?**

- If anyone in your household shows signs of Coronavirus, you must follow the Governments self-isolation guidance. You will need to report this absence to the school office in the usual way.
- If a child / staff member shows signs of Coronavirus, they will be expected to leave the premises as soon as possible and book a Covid test. If the test result is positive, all pupils' / staff members within that bubble will need to self-isolate at home for 10 days.

**Can my child attend school if they are unwell with symptoms not related to Coronavirus? Will you administer medication within school?**

During the current COVID-19 circumstances, the school will not administer medication prescribed or non-prescribed for short-term ill health conditions that are of a viral or bacterial nature. In the current climate, if a child is unwell, they will be expected to stay at home until fully recovered. It is considered that if a pupil is unwell with a viral or bacterial infection, their immunity will naturally be lowered and therefore they are at a greater risk of becoming infected with other illness. There will be no change in the support provided to pupils with long term medical conditions with individual health care plans or support with emergency medication such as auto-injectors, inhalers etc. If non prescribed pain relief is required to manage a physical injury such as a sprained ankle or broken limb, this will be agreed case by case.

**When will individual music lessons re-commence?**

NMPAT will be re-starting individual paid for music lessons within school during the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. All parents will be informed, by our school office, of any fees that need to be paid before this date. Or alternatively, any refunds that are due.

**Will there be Educational Visits?**

The Government advises against all educational visits at this time. This advice will be kept under review.

After Easter, there will be restricted use of the SU minibus, involving a strict cleaning regime or 72 hours' in-between use.

The Government's announcement indicates we are tentatively returning to normal. However, I wanted to reiterate how alert we are to the continued risk of Covid-19. We will continue to adhere to stringent health and safety measures now, and when fully open. Your support in helping us to be as safe as possible is much appreciated and will help to ensure we stay open to all pupils, and keep your child, our staff, and you, safe.

I hope this letter is helpful, and reassuring, but please let me know if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Rita Arundel  
Headteacher