

# Eastlands Primary School

May Bulletin 1 2020

## Hello to all our families,

I hope you are all safe and well.

You will have received the letter, earlier this week, following the Prime Minister announcement on Sunday 10th May.

The Senior Leadership of Eastlands and Governors are exploring ways to meet the requirements the government has announced.

Clearly the government have given schools some time to plan reopening in a safe manner.

The Prime Minister in the HOUSE OF COMMONS on Monday 11th May stated 'an understanding that parents cannot return to work without the right childcare and expectations that employers will be flexible...'

The Prime Minister stated on Sunday evening that Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will return to school by June 1st at the earliest. In later messages this has changed to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

Our school priorities remain:-

1. Maintaining social distancing
2. Ensuring safety of pupils, staff and parents
3. Providing the best package of childcare so parents can work from home or have some limited travel into work.

To keep you informed here are some factors to consider when reopening a school:-

1. Social Distancing—clearly the message of 2 meters must be maintained when travel into school and around school. On May 11th the government published this guidance for schools to use. Full government guidance is here:-

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#)

**Some quotes**—'Our ambition is to bring all primary year groups back to school before the summer holidays, for a month if feasible, though this will be kept under review. We will only welcome back additional year groups if the most up-to-date assessment of the risk posed by the virus indicates it is appropriate to have larger numbers of children within schools. The safety of children and staff is our utmost priority.'

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*A range of approaches and actions should be employed to do this. These can be seen as a hierarchy of controls that, when implemented, creates an inherently safer system, where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced. These include:*

- ⇒ *minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges*
- ⇒ *cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered*
- ⇒ *ensuring good respiratory hygiene - promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach*
- ⇒ *cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach*
- ⇒ *minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times)*

## **Class or group sizes**

*We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account. Schools should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures set out above:*

- ⇒ *avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms*
- ⇒ *frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices*
- ⇒ *regular cleaning of settings*
- ⇒ *minimising contact and mixing*

*For primary schools, classes should normally be split in half, with no more than 15 pupils per small group and one teacher (and, if needed, a teaching assistant). If there are any shortages of teachers, then teaching assistants can be allocated to lead a group, working under the direction of a teacher. Vulnerable children and children of critical workers in other year groups should also be split into small groups of no more than 15. Desks should be spaced as far apart as possible.*

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*Each setting's circumstances will be slightly different. Any setting that cannot achieve these small groups at any point should discuss options with their local authority or trust. This might be because there are not enough classrooms or spaces available in the setting or because they do not have enough available teachers or staff to supervise the groups. Solutions might involve children attending a nearby school. If necessary, settings have the flexibility to focus first on continuing to provide places for priority groups and then, to support children's early learning, settings should prioritise groups of children as follows:*

- ⇒ *early years settings - 3 and 4 year olds followed by younger age groups*
- ⇒ *infant schools - nursery (where applicable) and reception*
- ⇒ *primary schools - nursery (where applicable), reception and year 1*

*We will revisit this advice when the science indicates it is safe to invite more children back to schools and colleges.*

## **Planning and organising**

*Consider the following steps:*

*refresh your risk assessment and other health and safety advice for children, young people and staff in light of recent government advice, identifying protective measures (such as the things listed below). Also ensure that all health and safety compliance checks have been undertaken before opening*

- ⇒ *organise small class groups, as described in the 'class or group sizes' section above*
- ⇒ *organise classrooms and other learning environments such as workshops and science labs for those groups, maintaining space between seats and desks where possible*
- ⇒ *refresh the timetable:*
- ⇒ *decide which lessons or activities will be delivered*
- ⇒ *consider which lessons or classroom activities could take place outdoors*
- ⇒ *use the timetable and selection of classroom or other learning environment to reduce movement around the school or building*
- ⇒ *stagger assembly groups*
- ⇒ *stagger break times (including lunch), so that all children are not moving around the school at the same time*
- ⇒ *stagger drop-off and collection times plan parents' drop-off and pick-up protocols that minimise adult to adult contact*

*In addition, childcare settings or early years groups in school should:*

- ⇒ *consider how to keep small groups of children together throughout the day and to avoid larger groups of children mixing*
- ⇒ *consider how play equipment is used ensuring it is appropriately cleaned between groups of children using it, and that multiple groups do not use it simultaneously*

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- ⇒ *remove unnecessary items from classrooms and other learning environments where there is space to store it elsewhere*
- ⇒ *remove soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean (such as those with intricate parts)*
- ⇒ *consider how children and young people arrive at the education or childcare setting, and reduce any unnecessary travel on coaches, buses or public transport where possible (guidance will shortly be published on safe travel)*

## **Communicating your plans**

Consider the following steps:

- ⇒ *tell children, young people, parents, carers or any visitors, such as suppliers, not to enter the education or childcare setting if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus (following the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection)*
- ⇒ *tell parents that if their child needs to be accompanied to the education or childcare setting, only one parent should attend*
- ⇒ *tell parents and young people their allocated drop off and collection times and the process for doing so, including protocols for minimising adult to adult contact (for example, which entrance to use)*
- ⇒ *make clear to parents that they cannot gather at entrance gates or doors, or enter the site (unless they have a pre-arranged appointment, which should be conducted safely)*
- ⇒ *also think about engaging parents and children in education resources such as e-bug and PSHE schools resources*
- ⇒ *ensure parents and young people are aware of recommendations on transport to and from education or childcare setting (including avoiding peak times). Guidance will shortly be published on safe travel*
- ⇒ *talk to staff about the plans (for example, safety measures, timetable changes and staggered arrival and departure times), including discussing whether training would be helpful*
- ⇒ *communicate early with contractors and suppliers that will need to prepare to support your plans for opening for example, cleaning, catering, food supplies, hygiene suppliers*
- ⇒ *discuss with cleaning contractors or staff the additional cleaning requirements and agree additional hours to allow for this*

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## *When open*

### *Keep cohorts together where possible and:*

- ⇒ *ensure that children and young people are in the same small groups at all times each day, and different groups are not mixed during the day, or on subsequent days*
- ⇒ *ensure that the same teacher(s) and other staff are assigned to each group and, as far as possible, these stay the same during the day and on subsequent days.*
- ⇒ *ensure that wherever possible children and young people use the same classroom or area of a setting throughout the day, with a thorough cleaning of the rooms at the end of the day. In schools and colleges, you may want to consider seating students at the same desk each day if they attend on consecutive days*

In light of the above I am discussing with governors and staff :-

#### *1. Social distancing*

- ⇒ *Travel to and from school*
- ⇒ *In school*

#### *2. Quality of Education*

- ⇒ *Planning for children who are in school and not able to attend*
- ⇒ *Transition for Year 6*
- ⇒ *Continuing home learning resources for families shielding or self isolating*

#### *3. Safeguarding*

- ⇒ *Respond to domestic violence, safeguarding, mental well being issues,*
- ⇒ *Respond to escalating issues*

#### *4.SEND*

- ⇒ *Respond to specific Special Needs issues*
- ⇒ *Respond to underlying health issues*
- ⇒ *Transition to secondary for SEND pupils*

#### *5.Emotional and Behavioral*

- ⇒ *Bereavement support for pupils and staff*

#### *6. Hygiene/Cleanliness*

#### *7. Possible COVID—19 cases*

#### *8. Building works/ Logistics*

*There is a parent survey coming out soon to ask your thoughts on this. Remember nobody has been through a pandemic before . There is no right or wrong only the best we can be.*