



# Eaton Primary School



Duverlin Close, Norwich, NR4 6HS  
office@eaton.norfolk.sch.uk  
01603 502454  
Headteacher: Mr Allan Lowe

## **Covid-19 Update 08.07.2020**

### **Back to School in September – A Guide for Parents**

Dear parents

I hope that the following Q&A will give parents a good overview of our operational plans for reopening the school to all pupils in September. I will follow up this communication with more detailed information on timings of the school day and After School Club booking arrangements, before the summer break.

#### **Which pupils are due back to school in September?**

All pupils are expected to restart school in September. The only exceptions to this are if there are local lock down measures in place or if your child is under specialist clinical care, in which case we will contact you directly before the end of term.

#### **Will I be fined if I do not send my children back to school?**

If the absence is covered by the fixed penalty notice regulations, your child's absence will be referred to the local authority in the usual way. If you are anxious about returning your child to school for whatever reason, please contact us by email [office@eaton.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@eaton.norfolk.sch.uk) before Monday 13 July so that we can make contact with you before the end of term.

#### **Should children wear school uniform?**

Yes. DfE encourages a return to uniform which will be compulsory for Eaton children from September.

#### **What measures will be in place to minimise the risk of spreading the virus?**

- We have increased handwashing facilities across the whole school and children will use these regularly throughout the day.
- School will be open only to essential visitors.
- The school will have continuous cleaning provision throughout the school day to clean toilets and other frequently used surfaces.
- Stationery and other class equipment will as far as possible be limited to single users.
- We will observe the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' procedures.

#### **How will children be organised to minimise the risk of spreading coronavirus?**

Children will be grouped into their class bubbles of approx. 30 children, without the requirement for social distancing measures between children. However, class bubbles will not mix with other bubbles as far as possible.

## **What will classrooms look like?**

DfE are advising that children sit front facing and side by side; so children will be seated two at a table, with tables evenly spaced to maximise the available floor space. Tables will no longer be grouped. Unnecessary furniture will be removed. Reception classrooms will return to their play-based layout. Equipment can be shared, but will be cleaned regularly.

## **What measures are in place to protect adults working in the school?**

2m social distancing will continue between adults and between children and adults.

## **Why are groups based on a class size of 30 and not larger?**

By keeping the number as low as approx. 30, we can minimise the number of families that would need to go into self-isolation, in the event of a positive coronavirus test result in that group.

## **What happens when a bubble is closed due to a positive test result?**

All children and staff in an affected bubble will be sent home for 14 days. Children will need to self-isolate for 14 days as directed by Public Health England, and will therefore not be permitted to attend school during that time.

## **If my child's bubble is closed and they are sent home, how will they continue to access learning?**

For children at home, we will provide access to our class-based curriculum via our online learning portal. This will include regular teacher conferencing with pupils. We aim to blend `at school` and `at home` learning, through the use of technology at school and at home.

## **What will happen to events involving more than one class bubble?**

As advised by the DfE during the Autumn Term assemblies and other much larger school events such as Christmas performances will be suspended to minimise the risk of spreading the virus.

## **Are trips and clubs suspended too?**

Yes. Although trips are permitted in the DfE guidance, we have decided to take a precautionary approach to begin with and review the decision later on in the light of the infection rate. Teacher clubs operate across year groups and we want to minimise the time staff spend on site, so clubs will be suspended for the Autumn term too.

## **What about Breakfast and After School Clubs?**

On balance we would like to restart our extended school provision in some way, because we know how many working parents depend upon it. We will start with After School Club (ASC) and review Breakfast Club later on this term. ASC will be organised into four bubbles, which will involve some limited mixing of school bubbles. In the event of a positive test result in either a school or ASC bubble, we will close both bubbles.

## **How will the school manage the large increase in parent and pupil numbers arriving at the school?**

To help us maintain the adult social distancing requirements and separation of pupil bubbles at the start and end of the day, we will continue to stagger drop off and collection times as recommended by the DfE. Only one parent will be permitted onto the school playground at a time. We will operate a `drop and go` system in KS2 to speed up parents leaving the school site.

## **What happens if I have children in different year groups with different drop off and collection times?**

If you have more than one child at the school, you can drop them all at the earliest staggered time you have been allocated, and collect them at the latest staggered time you have been allocated. In this way children will receive their full educational hours each day.

## **Will my child get the same amount of teaching time with the staggering system, as they have been previously?**

Yes. Teaching time remains at 25 hours and 50 minutes a week for every child. That is the same as 5 hours and 10 minutes every day.

## **What will happen at lunch times?**

Lunch breaks will be shortened to 45 minutes and children will remain in their bubbles when playing outside. They will eat their lunch in their classroom and we are working with Norse to prepare a new classroom-friendly menu for September, which will include a hot meal option. Home packed lunches can be brought to school as usual.

## **If my child has fallen behind with their school work during the lock down, how will the school help to catch them up?**

We are developing a curriculum recovery plan which will focus on teaching the essentials in maths and English from September. It is anticipated that some children will have gaps in knowledge and skills. We will want to identify where those gaps are through low-stakes assessment and deploy a teaching program that can respond quickly to both individual pupils and the needs of our different year groups. This is a complex under-taking, but we have a high level of expertise within our teaching and leadership teams to deliver on this for our pupils.

## **Will other subjects be taught as usual?**

Returning to a broad and balanced curriculum (where we teach the full range of subjects for example, art, music, humanities and the sciences alongside maths and English) will be a priority for the school. The DfE recognise that teaching time should be prioritised to address significant gaps at the start of the year, with the aim of returning to the school's full curriculum offer no later than summer term 2021.

## **Will children have to sit statutory assessment tests next year?**

Yes. The DfE has stipulated that all statutory assessment and testing will fully return next year. This will include:

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile at the end of Reception  
Year 1 phonics screening test  
Year 2 tests in maths and English  
Year 4 multiplication test  
Year 6 tests in maths and English

## **What support will there be for pupil wellbeing?**

Returning to school allows social interaction with peers and teachers which benefits wellbeing. In addition, school will plan for the provision of pastoral and extra-curricular activities designed to:

- support the re-building of friendships and social engagement
- address and equip pupils to respond to issues linked to coronavirus
- support pupils with approaches to improving their physical and mental wellbeing

Our wellbeing team will of course be on hand to provide more focused pastoral support where needed.

I hope that this guidance has provided answers to any questions you may have had. Please contact us via [office@eaton.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@eaton.norfolk.sch.uk) if you have any questions.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Allan Lowe', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Allan Lowe  
Headteacher