



Eaton Primary School



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Headteacher: Mr Allan Lowe

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Dear Parents

We have had a successful return back to school with attendance rates at 98% last week. I am very impressed with how quickly our children have settled into the new routines and expectations.

I am also very appreciative of how parents have responded to the safety measures at school and as a result of this, staff continue to report very high levels of confidence in the school's covid arrangements.

Our educational priority in the next few weeks is to fully re-engage children with a full curriculum offer, whilst understanding where the gaps are in core knowledge, understanding and skills, so that we can focus on catching up any lost learning due to school closure.

At the same time, we are faced with several other significant issues:

Symptoms and Testing Capacity:

So that parents are clear on the symptoms which require self-isolation and testing I will outline them as follows:

1. **A high temperature** – NHS Inform states that `in children a temperature of over 37.5C (99.5F) is a fever`.
2. **A new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours.
3. **A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child has had any of these symptoms at any time, they will not be permitted to return to school before the self-isolation period without a confirmation of a negative test result, so that we can continue to reduce the risk of an outbreak at school and thereby protect the wider community.

Children who have been asked to self-isolate should remain at home for 10 days or until they receive a negative test result. Siblings and the rest of the household should remain at home for 14 days or until a negative result is received.

For absolute clarity, we will not direct children to self-isolate & test in the absence of coronavirus symptoms. Parents should continue to send their children to school, once they are feeling better, if they have had other cold like symptoms such as a sore throat, chesty cough or runny nose etc, without a temperature.

The government has said that solving the capacity problem in the testing service would take `further weeks`.

I am aware of the disruption that this delay in testing is having on our children and parents.

With an efficient testing system fully operational, symptomatic children who are sent home, should be back to school within days if they test negative; minimising disruption to their education and to members of their household who also have to self-isolate.

Currently however, I am told that often tests are unavailable locally and that there are lengthy delays in getting test results back.

This is an extremely disappointing situation for everybody, especially given the amount of time many children have spent at home during the school closure period.

However, this challenging national context, should not distract the school from its commitment to following the government guidelines, so that we can mitigate against the risk of a coronavirus outbreak within the school.

Remote Learning:

With some children at home again, whilst awaiting test results, we will launch today a remote learning program of work which will be sent every 2 weeks to all parents.

It will be a daily timetable covering 2 weeks of work in English, maths and topic. Children at home should try to engage with this work by establishing a daily routine.

If your child is absent from school for any reason, they can now use the remote learning work to continue their education, whilst at home.

To support access to learning at home in the future, we plan to:

1. Rapidly expand the number and make available for use at home, our IT devices.
2. In partnership with Evolution Academy Trust, launch a new Learning Platform to host our remote learning program of work. This will replace Clasdojo which will no longer be in use.

I hope that these initiatives will help to support parents and children, as we navigate our way through a what seems likely to be a second wave of coronavirus during the winter months.

Kind regards



Allan Lowe
Headteacher