



Eaton Primary School



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

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Dear Parents

Covid update

Fortunately, we have not had any positive test results in school during this half term. I would like to thank parents for their timely communication with the school over suspected cases and their approach to requests to self-isolate. Working together in this way, has really helped confidence levels in our health and safety measures across the school community.

Predictably, we have had to respond to covid-related disruption to staffing this half term, and I anticipate further disruption in the run up to the Christmas break.

My preferred approach has been to cover all staff absence internally as far as possible and not to use external supply. The challenge is the bubble system, which restricts the deployment of staff across the school. We will however, continue along the same lines after the half term, as far as we are able to.

In the event that we have a confirmed positive test result, the school will take the appropriate actions which will include closing bubbles at short notice, and therefore sending children home to self-isolate. It would be useful for parents to have preparations in hand for these circumstances.

Remote Learning

We will post remote learning for English, maths and topic for all year groups onto the school website each week. Please go to the Remote Learning tab on the homepage. We are making teaching slides available to parents so that learning can continue at home, if your child is self-isolating. The DfE expects children to engage at home with a full day's learning during periods of self-isolation.

Reports to parents

Reports, giving parents an update on pupil achievement and wellbeing, will be emailed home on 16 November. The reports will give parents a detailed overview on achievement in English and maths, attendance and wellbeing. Parents will be able to email a response or questions about the report directly to the school via admin@eaton.norfolk.sch.uk

Due to the significant disruption to children's education this year, many children are below the standard they should be at this point in time. Having conferenced with all teachers during this half term, I am however confident that we will see a return to previous levels of achievement across the school by the end of this academic year.

Teachers have been planning lessons which fill gaps in missed learning, whilst continuing to teach this year's learning objectives. Importantly, we have seen children enthusiastically re-engage with their learning, indicating that pupil progress during this year will accelerate to catch up any ground lost.

SEN Plans

Some pupils with additional needs have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). New IEPs will be available for parents to view online from 5 November. Previous targets have been reviewed and new targets set for the next term. To discuss your child's new plan, we will contact parents during the week beginning 9 November.

New Lunches

Parents can now book from the new Aspens lunch menu in the usual way, using our online service. So that we can make adjustments to the menu, only the first three weeks of the half term are currently available to book. Our aim is to introduce an exciting Grab & Go offer for our older children later in the term. I would encourage all parents to try out the new menu. Ingredients are all locally sourced from [Roofe Catering Butchers](#) of Norwich and [Accent](#) of Downham Market, sugar and salt content is minimised and healthier cooking methods are used.

Christmas

Christmas arrangements for this year are being scaled back due to covid. However, I would like to keep the Christmas Spirit alive at school and all of our children will be taking part in some form of activity or performance, which we will film and make available for parents. Reception children will take part in a nativity performance 'A Bundle of Joy'.

Attendance

Our current overall attendance excluding covid-related absence, is good at 97%. However disappointingly we have lost 3000 minutes to lateness this half term. I would encourage all parents to plan ahead to get their children to school on time, so that we can significantly reduce the levels of lateness across the whole school by the end of term.

Parents should carefully note the following:

- Parents must request advanced permission in writing from the school, if they want any absence to be considered for authorisation.
- All holiday requests will be unauthorised.
- In some circumstances, absence as a result of extended periods of illness or frequently occurring short periods of illness, may require a doctor's note to be authorised.
- We will refer nine unauthorised absences in any six weeks, to the local authority for a fixed penalty notice fine of £60 per child per parent.
- Parents on statutory attendance plans failing to meet attendance targets, will be prosecuted by the local authority with a maximum fine of £1500 and/or 3 months in prison.

Thank you once again for all the support for the school during this time and I hope everyone enjoys a safe half term.

Kind regards



Allan Lowe
Headteacher