



# Eaton Primary School



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Headteacher: Mr Allan Lowe

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## Headteacher Newsletter

### Including Whole School Arrangements for September 2021

Dear Parents

I am writing with an end of year update and providing information for arrangements for the start of the new term in September.

I appreciate that parents will want to know in advance of school closing for the summer break, what our detailed plans are, so that parents can begin to make their arrangements for the start of the new year.

However please consider that the plans below are **all subject to change at short notice** if we receive updated covid-19 operational guidance from DFE during the summer break.

At the end of another extraordinary year, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy summer holiday.

Allan Lowe  
Headteacher

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#### Year Six

Yet again, our children in Year 6 have shone brightly right through to the end of the year. They have responded to a challenging situation with resilience and fortitude. Every single child can be extremely proud of what they have achieved not only this year, but across their time at Eaton. This year group was in Reception class when I started at Eaton in 2015, and so are the first children to finish the school entirely on `my watch`. They are hard-working, full of energy and creativity and I know that they will go on to have successful careers at High School and beyond. We all wish them the very best of luck for next year and although we cannot send them off with the usual end of year ceremonies, I know that they will cherish the many memories of their time at our school.

#### Curriculum

Leaders have now completed an extensive review of our foundation curriculum. This covers the teaching of subjects other than maths and English. From September, we will move to a model of discrete teaching for these subjects, with the aim of ensuring that children develop a systematic and coherent understanding of the knowledge and skills in these subjects. This approach is in-line with Ofsted's emphasis on schools delivering a rigorous subject-led broad and balanced curriculum.

This is an exciting project for the school and together with our digital approach, I am confident that we are developing a powerful and creative curriculum that meets our children's needs for the 21 century. We will publish the full curriculum onto the school website at the start of next term.

### **Premises Improvement**

Work to replace all external facing doors and windows has now commenced. This is a major premises project for the school and will result in a significant improvement in energy efficiency, safety and security. Due to the delayed start, this project will run into the Autumn term with an anticipated completion time of October half term.

### **End of Year Report to Parents**

End of year reports will be sent via email on Tuesday 20 July. Grading is based on teacher assessment and this year we have run a joint quality assurance exercise with our Trust partners at Dell Primary School. All children have done exceptionally well to cope with circumstances during the last 18 months and I am really impressed by how much children have caught up on lost learning and by how much progress they have made. We welcome your feedback on your child's report and you can provide this by completing the Google survey which will be sent to all parents at the end of term.

### **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Holiday**

All schools have been allocated an additional day of holiday next year to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. In consultation with our main High school partner CNS, Eaton will close for the Christmas break a day earlier on Friday 17 December 2021.

## **Detailed arrangements for September**

### **Breakfast & After School Clubs**

I understand how important these services are to our busy working parents and we have continued to look at where we can make improvements for the many children who attend these clubs.

Our after school club will continue next term to be structured into smaller groups. Mrs Louise Tillett will manage provision for our older KS2 children, whilst Mrs Sally Browne will now manage provision for our Reception and KS1 children. These smaller age-based groups will be run separately using our 2 main halls and outdoor provision.

We will continue to use Premier Sport to provide a structured program of physical activity for children in our extended provision.

Breakfast club will continue to be managed by Miss Emily Taylor. Please now use the school's main office entrance to drop your child in the morning.

Booking for both clubs will open at the start of August, and the office will send a text reminder.

### **Arriving at School**

Purtingay and Elcar gates will not open before 08:35. To avoid congestion, please do not arrive early. Gates will close at 09:00. Please leave the school site in time for gates closing.

The whole school will return to an 08:50 start. On arrival children should remain in the playground and be ready to quickly line up at their playground collection points so that their teacher can bring them inside. Teachers will be at these line up points early on the first day back.

We will continue to operate a one-way entry and exit system and ask that only one parent accompany their child to school (new reception exempt).

To reduce local congestion levels, we ask that parents continue to leave the site as soon as they have dropped their child at school. Staff will supervise playgrounds between 08:35 – 08:50.

### **Leaving School**

The whole school will return to 15:15 collection. Parents should collect from the classroom door.

Purtingay and Elcar gates will open at 15:00 and close at 15:30. To reduce congestion levels please leave the site as soon as you have collected your child.

### **Class Bubbles**

The bubble system will no longer operate in September. This means that children will be able to mix freely with their friends in other classes and adults will be able to work across the whole school again.

### **Social Distancing**

There will be no requirement to socially distance between adults or children in September.

### **Face Coverings**

Face coverings will no longer be required to be worn outside by parents, staff or visitors. School will review with the Trust during the summer break what school policy will be for face coverings inside of the school.

### **Hygiene**

Regular hand washing will continue in school to help reduce the spread of covid-19 and other diseases such as D&V during the autumn and winter months.

### **Equipment**

Children's equipment will return to their trays. Equipment, such as stationery and play equipment, will be shared across the class. Children can take home reading books from school and bring in stationery equipment from home as directed by their teacher.

### **Ventilation**

We will balance the need for good levels of ventilation in classrooms and around the school, with maintaining a comfortable room temperature for staff and children to work in. Doors and windows will be kept open as much as possible to allow for an air flow, however children should not feel cold because of ventilation measures. We advise all children to adjust indoor clothing for the winter months (e.g. wear a vest or an extra jumper).

### **Classroom Layout**

Pupil tables will be reconfigured in classrooms to support group work. There will be no requirement for children to face the front in table rows and classroom layout will support collaborative learning and group discussion.

## **Assemblies and Whole School Events**

Assemblies will be re-introduced at a smaller scale – key stage and year groups to begin with, to minimise the number, proximity and duration of contacts. Whole school assemblies will not be held at the start of the term and their reintroduction will be kept under review.

## **Lunch Settings**

To minimise the number, proximity and duration of contacts we are splitting Reception/KS1 and KS2 lunch services. Lunch will be served in both halls allowing for a calmer and quicker lunch for the children.

## **Parent Assemblies and Cafes**

Termly class assemblies and parent cafes will take the place of Welcome Wednesdays to minimise the number, proximity and duration of contacts.

## **First Aid**

Mrs Daynes will continue as our dedicated School First Aider. All first aid incidents are now reportable to Trust via our online reporting system. Parents will continue to be informed if their child has been treated with first aid. This includes receiving a text message for head injuries.

## **After School Activity Clubs**

We are re-organising our after school club provision and will publish details in September of how to book from a range of outside providers.

## **Parent Consultations**

To minimise the number, proximity and duration of contacts, we will continue to use a remote meeting platform for our parent consultations. The first of these will be held just before October half term. I hope that holding these meetings remotely will support parents with their time schedules and we will review the process before making a decision for the Spring term meetings.

## **Trips and Visits**

Class trips and visits will resume in September and will be fully risk assessed for covid-19. Our Year 6 residential to the Isle of Wight is currently under review and we are looking into alternatives which are closer. A decision will be published to parents in September.

## **Covid-19 procedures**

### **Contact with a Positive Case**

The introduction of the two measures below, will significantly reduce disruption to education next year.

In September, children will not be required to self-isolate if they have been in contact with a positive case (e.g. someone in their class has tested positive). Instead they will be advised to PCR test by NHS Test & Trace. There will be no bubble system or sending home of classes in the event of a positive test result. Adults working in school who have been double vaccinated will not be required to self-isolate if they have been in contact with a positive case and instead will be advised to PCR test.

### **Pupils and Staff with a Positive Test Result**

Pupils and staff must remain at home if they have a positive PCR test result and follow public health advice on self-isolation.

### **Pupils and Staff with Covid Symptoms**

Pupils and staff must remain at home if they have covid symptoms and follow public health advice on self-isolation and testing.

### **LF Testing**

All adults will continue to be asked to test twice weekly using a lateral flow test to help identify asymptomatic infection. Staff who test positive on a LF test will self-isolate until they receive a PCR test result. Adults can return to work if they receive a negative PCR test result.

### **Track and Trace**

Schools are no longer legally required to trace contacts of a positive test result in their school. If your child tests PCR positive in the summer break, you will be contacted by NHS test and trace directly and not by the school. School cannot give direction to self-isolate under the new regulations, but will continue to close bubbles up until the end of term to help stop the virus spreading inside of the school community.