



# Eaton Primary School



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Headteacher: Mr Allan Lowe

## Headteacher Newsletter October 2021

### Dear Parents

We have had a successful return to school this half term with significantly less disruption than previously. This has given us the opportunity to really build momentum with our new curriculum. Children are now spending more time being taught the foundation subjects in-depth, in addition to getting the quality teaching in maths and English as well. Our digital approach in the KS2 is now established and is delivering a blend of high quality teaching with access to online resources. All of our children have worked really hard this half term and I am sure that they are looking forward to a well-earned break.

### Covid

We keep our covid-19 risk assessment under constant review. Assessment is determined by the situation on the ground at the school and guidance from government, the local authority and the Trust. On Thursday 21.10.21 Norfolk local authority issued strong recommendations to take further measures in the light of covid cases, these include:

- *Taking a PCR test if staff or pupils are sent home with symptoms of covid*
- *All non-essential events where parents visit the school should be held virtually*

In addition to the existing measures already in place at school – hygiene, ventilation and Drop and Go on the playground, school will make the following changes to take effect on Monday 01.11.21:

- **Pupils must have a negative PCR test result before being allowed to return to school after being sent home with covid symptoms – to protect community health and the work force.**
- **All non-essential events where parents visit the school will be suspended or held virtually where possible – to protect community health and the work force.**

We will be installing into all classrooms CO2 monitors, to allow us to monitor ventilation levels. As the winter approaches, please ensure your child comes to school with a jumper or extra under layer to keep them comfortable in class.

### School attendance

Overall attendance for the school is currently 95%, which is good for the time of year. In addition to having had several positive cases of covid-19 requiring extended periods at home for pupils who have been self-isolating, there has also been a bout of sickness early in the term. My thanks to parents for ensuring that we have good attendance rates at school – which ensures continuation of education for children at this critical time.

### Tutoring programme

The school has been allocated funds from the Dfe to support children's learning where it may have been affected by the disruption caused by the pandemic. We have followed the recommended route by asking our teachers to provide this tutoring in small groups before or after school. Evidence shows that using teachers to provide this tutoring delivers the most impact for children. I would like to thank our teachers for signing up to this important

national programme and for prioritising their time in the best interests of our pupils who need a little extra support. There is eligibility criteria for this Dfe-funded programme and parents of eligible pupils have been contacted directly to sign up.

### **Clubs**

A new club list will be issued today. We have approached a range of providers for parents to choose from including the NTA and CSF and have planned coverage for all year groups. Because teacher time out of school hours is now very much focused on educational outcomes and tutoring, the move to outside providers means that these clubs are chargeable, but they do offer very good value for money to parents. Typically, a 45 minute session will cost £4. Parents can book a place directly with the provider via the information which will be sent today.

### **Parent evening**

Thank you to parents for engaging with our online system for parents evening. If we consider uptake as one measure of success for these meetings, the change has been very effective. 80% of pupils will have a parent meeting this term – the highest ever reach we have been able to achieve, and a significant increase on our previous uptake of 63%. I am really delighted that more parents have felt able to engage with the school for these meetings. As I have written previously, I hope that the system will make meetings more convenient for both parents and teachers and are in-line with our updated covid risk assessment. As always, if you feel you need a more in depth discussion with the school about your child, a virtual appointment can always be made via the school office. We will keep arrangements under review for Spring term.

### **House Games & Pioneers**

Having relaunched House Games at the start of the term, I have to say that it has been an absolute pleasure to see our children back outside on the field on a Friday afternoon taking part in competitive sports. Due to the winter weather conditions, House Games will end at half term and resume in Spring 2 for the rest of the year. Pioneers will continue throughout the Autumn term.

### **School Governors**

The Trust has appointed 2 parent governors, Ms Sarah Gardiner and Mrs Ellen Mitchelson. Dr Craig Avieson holds the Chair as of the start of this term. For more information about school governance please see the school website.

Wishing everyone a restful half term break.

Allan Lowe  
Headteacher