



## **EASTERN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Friends Together, Learn Forever**

Headteacher: Louise Jefford

Deputy Headteacher: Steve Manley

### **Spring Term 2022**

### **Return To School**

### **Keeping safe from Covid-19 and the new Omicron variant**

#### **When are children starting?**

Thankfully, we have enough staff to open all classes on Monday January 10<sup>th</sup>. The situation is changing on a day to day basis and you may have heard on social media that there is also a shortage of supply staff to cover any absences. Fingers crossed we can all stay well and covid free over the next few weeks!

#### **Are the start and finish times the same as last term?**

Yes, and the handover points at the start and end of day are also the same.

#### **What are the chances of school or classes closing?**

Staff shortages and the number of covid cases in school will determine this. We will try our very best to keep all classes open whilst the infection rates are high and manage as best we can. We are hopeful that the spread of covid will slow and we will continue to try and keep it out of the school as best we can, but obviously we will need your help with that.

#### **What should I do if my child is ill?**

We are concerned that some individuals, both adults and children, have tested positive with covid when they have symptoms that are not those that are listed. If your child is unwell, we ask that you take extra care when making the decision about sending them into school. If at all unsure, please keep them at home or consider taking a test just to be sure.

#### **If my child is home ill or must isolate, can school work be sent home?**

Yes. This week staff have been developing methods of getting work to parents and children quicker and using easier methods. The teaching and learning that is prepared by teachers will be accessible every week. This not only helps children who are unable to attend school, but it will also help parents to know and see what their child has been learning in school over the weeks.

#### **What are staff doing to keep school a safe place and avoid any closure?**

##### **Hand hygiene**

Everyone entering the building is asked to sanitize hands before entering. Those who cannot use sanitizer or do not wish to use sanitizer are asked to wash hands. Children wash / sanitize at key points during the day and are also prompted to do so as part of teaching personal hygiene. All children are asked to wash hands after using the toilet. (This hand washing is unsupervised so at times we encourage some children to sanitize as they leave the toilet area.) We have several sanitizing stations and bottles freely available around the school. Some children choose to bring their own sanitizer into school for their own personal use.

##### **Catch it, bin it**

Boxes of tissues are freely available in all classes. Children are encouraged to catch any sneezes and runny noses into a tissue which is then immediately thrown into a lidded bin.

##### **Lateral flow testing**

All staff are asked to take a lateral flow test 3 times a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

### Masks/Face coverings

Staff are encouraged to wear fluid resistant face masks when they are unable to keep a distance of 2m. This is easier when staff work with older children. For younger children, depending on the activity, this is not always possible. Face shields are available for this staff. We aim to protect your children as much as possible. Some children chose to wear a face covering in school and this is also acceptable. If you want your child to wear a face covering they will need to know how to wear them and how to keep them clean.

### Sanitizing surfaces

Staff will be returning to the high-level sanitizing procedures throughout the school day. Tables will be sanitized at key points during the day and high touch areas through the school will be sanitized twice a day.

### Air ventilation

Windows are opened to ensure clean air is being circulated into the classrooms. Welsh government have now provided all classrooms with devices that can measure the quality of the air condition. The reading will be monitored by staff using the room.

### **What can parents do to help?**

Please help us keep covid out of the school. We have children in school that were shielding due to health conditions and not vaccinated. We also have mothers of children at the school who are pregnant, so we will need to keep their children safe and well. PLEASE ... if your child is ill keep them home and consider testing, if in doubt, please play it safe to keep others safe. If a member of your household tests positive, it is highly likely that family members in the same house will be infected so PLEASE consider this when deciding if your child comes into school.

### **What are the new rules if someone tests positive?**

The exact directions are on the Welsh government site, this is a short summary.

- Isolate for 7 days (this is a legal requirement)
- Take a lateral flow test on day 6
- Take a lateral flow test 24 hours later
- If tests are negative the person is out from isolation on day 8
- If the test is positive remain in isolation until two negative results, 24 hours apart.
- Still unsure? Ring the NHS helpline.

### **What are the rules if someone is a close contact of a positive case?**

Here are the rules for fully vaccinated adults and children aged 5-17.

The exact directions are on the Welsh government site, this is a short summary.

- No need to isolate
- Lateral flow test advised every day for 7 days. Is that for children too? Yes.
- Children under 5 do not need to test or isolate.

Here are the rules for unvaccinated adults.

- Isolate for 10 days (this is a legal requirement)
- PCR test on day 2 after the contact with the positive case
- PCR test on day 8 after the contact with the positive case

### **Where can I get lateral flow testing kits?**

The pharmacy, or you can order online from the NHS site. As yet, we have not received any testing kits for parents to use with children. However, we have been informed that kits may become available for parents to collect for their children if their child has been identified as a close contact.

### **Should we let school know if we have a positive case in our household?**

If you wouldn't mind, yes please. This is to help us consider any risks for children with underlying health conditions within that class and pregnant women. It allows individuals to take extra precaution and be mindful of distancing, hand hygiene and masks.

**Will parents be informed if there is a positive case in school?**

Yes. Parents will be informed if there is a positive case in their class. If another child or adult from that class tests positive within 7 days, parents will receive another letter to warn and inform. Track and trace will be advising school on actions to take if there are more than two cases in one class.

**If my child is a close contact of a positive case will school let me know?**

Track and trace identify the close contacts in communication with school staff. They will contact parents of the children and parents will be sent a form to complete. They refer to this form as an 'e-form' which means it is a form that will be emailed to you.

**Are the children staying in their class bubbles?**

Yes, and as an extra precaution whilst infection spread rate is high, we are returning to single class bubbles.

**Is there still breakfast club?**

Yes. Currently, we are able open breakfast club on Monday when the children return. Breakfast club seating is organised into class bubbles and family bubbles and takes a lot of organising for Mrs Jenkins! It is not an easy task for her, which is why we nag parents about completing the booking form. Our cook is very good, and she still makes toast for all the classes. This ensures nobody misses out on breakfast. Lots of children really enjoy this!

**Who can visit the school?**

- Supply staff to cover staff absences. They are asked to do a lateral flow test before coming into school.
- Building maintenance. We ask that repairs are carried out when all children have left the building. In an emergency and they attend in the school day, the workers are kept away from the children and asked to wear masks at all times.
- Local authority officers for essential visits only. All children's learning is essential, so we consider any professional needing to work with a child on an individual basis is essential. These professionals take lateral flow tests before coming into school and they wear masks whilst working with the children.
- Currently, we are unable to organise any face to face meetings with parents or professionals. These meetings will be carried out via Teams / Zoom.

**Can I ask a different question?**

Yes of course, it helps us to make sure we have covered everything for you. Let us know via any of the communication methods we have in place.

- School office telephone – 01639 882819
- Email – [easternprimary@npt.school](mailto:easternprimary@npt.school)
- School website – parents – ask a question
- Text the school mobile – 07387903683. Don't forget to say who you are in the text if you have not used this in the past.
- Facebook (general questions please not personal to your child)

Have a good weekend. Weather forecast is rain, rain and more rain, so get the wellies and waterproofs out and find some puddles and squelchy mud! Have fun everyone! See you all on Monday. Looking forward to it!

Louise Jefford

