



Eastbury Community School

Hulse Avenue | Barking | Essex | IG11 9UW

Telephone: 020 8507 4500 | Fax: 020 8507 4501 | Web: www.eastburyschool.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr David Dickson, BSc (Hons), MA, NPQH
headteacher@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk

Primary School

Head of Primary: Ms Aisha Raymond
ped@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk
Tel: 020 8507 4612

Secondary School

office@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk
Tel: 020 8507 4500

Sixth Form

Head of Sixth Form: Mr Dominic Simpson
office@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk
Tel: 020 8507 4595

24th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is the beginning of a new academic year, and it will be very different to previous years. I hope that you and your family are well, and should there be a change of circumstances that we need to be aware of in order to support your son/daughter, please let us know via the school email address. This will allow us to target support as much as possible.

As you will be aware, the government has announced that schools should fully reopen from the start of the upcoming autumn term. They have decided this on the basis of:

- The prevalence of coronavirus decreasing
- The new NHS test and trace system being in place
- More clarity about the measures that need to be in place to create safe environments in schools
- Time out of school being detrimental to children's development
- The low risk to children of becoming severely ill from coronavirus

We are open to all of our pupils in September. We're looking forward to welcoming Year 7 and Year 12 back on **Wednesday 2nd September** and everyone back on Thursday 3rd September. The start and finish times for each year group will be on the website. We are working hard to make the school a safe and enjoyable environment.

Return to school schedule:

Wednesday 2nd September

- Year 7 8.40-12.30 Entrance via Hulse Avenue gate

Thursday 3rd September

- Year 7 8.40-1.30 Hulse Gate
- Year 8 11.45-3.05 Rosslyn Gate
- Year 9 11.45-3.05 Wilmington Gate
- Year 10 11.45-3.05 Rosslyn Gate
- Year 11 8.40-1.30 Wilmington gate
- Year 12 11:30-13:30 6th Form gate
- Year 13 13:30-15:05 6th Form gate

Friday 4th September – and until further notice

- Year 7 8.40-2.30 Hulse Gate
- Year 8 9.00-2.50 Rosslyn Gate
- Year 9 9.00-2.50 Wilmington Gate
- Year 10 8.40-2.30 Rosslyn Gate
- Year 11 8.40-2.30 Wilmington Gate
- Year 12+13 8.40-2.30 6th form gate.



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If you could ask your son/daughter to refrain from congregating outside of school, and wherever possible they should adhere to social distancing measures. Face coverings can be worn by pupils in communal areas, and they should know how to remove and store their face covering to reduce the spread of the virus.

Pupils should arrive in full school uniform.

PE will be different to previous years, and because we can't use the changing facilities in the way we have before. On the days that pupils have PE they should arrive for school in their PE kit, and will stay in it for the whole day. Once your son/daughter has their timetable and have had their first PE lesson, they will learn if they have outdoor or inside PE. If your son/daughter has outdoor PE we would advise that they have their school uniform in their bag to change in if the weather is wet. If this changes, the PE department will send an update.

Punctuality is incredibly important at this time to keep the movement around the school safe. We ask that your son/daughter does not arrive more than 5 minutes before their start time, but never later.

Attendance

Attendance will be mandatory in September, as the government expects all pupils to attend school. The usual rules will apply, meaning we'll be recording attendance and following up on any absences.

If your children have been staying at home due to the current shielding guidance, the government is due to pause this guidance on 1 August if there's a continued decline in coronavirus transmission rates. That means they should be able to come back to school in September.

However, if you've received clinical or public health advice that your children should still remain at home, please let us know and continue to follow that guidance. We'll be offering remote education to these pupils. If your child falls into this category can you please let the school know so that remote learning can be organised and tailored to your child's needs.

Safety measures

A full risk assessment has been carried out, and this will be on the school website by 26th August.

When your children come into school, we will have the following protective measures in place for all pupils:

- A staggered start time for different year groups, with each year group having their own entrance and exit to the school.
- Pupils will be expected to wash/sanitise their hands-on entry to a school building and classroom, as well as before and after using the toilet, when they sneeze/cough and before and after eating. ☒ Pupils will be provided with basic stationary from the school, to reduce the need for sharing resources. Pupils must have this equipment with them at all times.
- Pupils will be kept in year group bubbles – with Key Stage 3 pupils being taught in their form room, except for Art/Design/Music/PE. This is to reduce movement around the school.
- Key Stage 4+5 will have their lessons in the normal way, but rooms will be zoned as much as possible
- The canteen will be providing food, which will be packed lunch in format that will need to be pre ordered every morning. The lunches will then be collected by the pupils throughout the morning, in time slots.
- Pupils are encouraged to bring in their own packed lunch wherever possible.

The school day will be shorter to facilitate safe moving around the school and surrounding areas, but learning time remains unchanged.

- Water fountains will still be out of bounds, so all pupils will need to bring a full water bottle in every day.
- New rules and expectations will be shared with pupils on a regular basis by all staff.

- If your child is unwell, please do not send them to school, and if they have COVID-19 symptoms then the child must be tested and the results shared with the school. Full details in the home school expectations.

Curriculum

Although there'll need to be some changes to reflect the teaching time that was lost during the lockdown, we'll still be doing our best to provide an ambitious, broad and challenging curriculum.

Our current plan is: Maintain a full and active curriculum Embed low stake / low stress informal assessments throughout the curriculum to identify gaps in learning Marking and feedback will be verbal or via Showmyhomework. Where formal assessment is needed we will take the necessary precautions when handling pupils' work. For pupils taking GCSE and A Levels, we are awaiting for further details about how these exams will be run in summer 2021, and will keep you updated Targeted intervention and alternative types of teaching when required Remote and blended learning will continue to be developed and used as a contingency should there be a local lockdown

Pastoral support

We are aware that the lockdown has been a difficult time for many of us, including our pupils.

Please let us know if you think your children might need extra support when returning to school, such as if they feel anxious about coming back or they are experiencing bereavement. A questionnaire will be sent out in the first week of term, where you can provide the relevant information.

Our current plans to support your children's wellbeing during this time are:

Supporting general pupil wellbeing through pastoral and curricular activities that will encourage discussion Specifically help pupils who are vulnerable or who have difficulty re-engaging in school through mentoring, counselling, and other targeted support SEN/D pupils will have additional support and guidance where needed.

If you have any questions or concerns about the points we have set out above, please get in touch with the relevant Head of Year. For example, if you think your child may have developed or experienced any mental health issues.

We are extremely grateful for all the support we have received so far from the school community. We will continue to keep in touch if there are any updates to our plans or if we need to make changes due to new or updated government advice, and this will be shared on the website.

I look forward to our new academic year, and whilst there will be challenges along the way, we will work tirelessly to provide a broad and balanced curriculum in an engaging and purposeful environment, alongside reviewing our risk assessment to keep all at Eastbury Community School safe.

Kind Regards



Sharon Collins

Head of Secondary