



Your questions answered.....

Dear Parents

As we look forward to welcoming all children back into school on Monday 8th March, I thought it would be the perfect time to send out the below information which was also sent out earlier in the school year. Our approach to COVID in-school prior to the Christmas break was a relatively successful one so there will not be many changes to the protocols we had in place then. I hope that the answers given below will go some way to answering any queries that you may have.

When is school reopening?

School has been open throughout this time to children of Key Workers and vulnerable pupils. However, we now are able to have ALL pupils back from Monday 8th March.

Are the times of the school day the same?

The lengthened drop off time of 8.30 – 8.50am will still remain in place so as to spread the foot traffic of parents and children in and around the school in the mornings. In the afternoon, Reception class children should be collected from the playground at 3pm and the remainder of the children will be leaving at the usual time of 3.10pm.

What is likely to be different for the children?

There are almost NO changes for the children compared to what they were used to before Christmas – apart from they will notice the lovely new carpet we now have in the corridor! Essentially, classes will remain in bubbles throughout the school day whilst adults working in school can work with different classes if needed.

How can parents help in and around the school?

We will continue to ask that ALL parents when on the school grounds wear a face mask or shield. We also ask parents to ensure they adhere to the current social distancing requirements put in place by local government. Parents should also leave their children in the playgrounds and allow them to walk around to their classroom independently – even those in Reception Class enjoyed the independence that this allowed them in the first half of the school year!

Do children have to wear masks?

No.

Should my child wear normal school uniform?

Yes. Children should wear uniform from Monday to Thursday. On a Friday, they should wear their PE kit to school which should consist of their house PE T-Shirt and a hooded top if they have one. On a Thursday, some classes have Forest School with Mrs Wilkinson-Tough – on these days, the children should come to school in suitable warm clothing for these sessions and bring with them a change of clothes also.

Can my child still choose between a packed lunch and a school dinner?

Hot school dinners will once again return to the kitchen so children can choose this option if they would rather over a packed lunch. Those in EYFS or Years 1 and 2, can access these meals free of charge. For anyone receiving free-school meal vouchers, these will cease once the children return to school.

Is there still a Breakfast Club and After-School club facility?

Breakfast club has continued to operate throughout this time, however, we will be pleased to once again open up our After-School Club facility again from 8th March. However, for us to be able to staff this accordingly, we do ask ALL parents to complete the relevant forms which you can get from the school office.

What should my child bring with them to school on a daily basis?

Children can bring a bag as normal and should always have a water bottle with them each day.

What if I am worried about sending my child back to school?

We completely appreciate that some parents may be anxious about their child returning to school. We have followed all government guidance and put in place a range of measures to ensure the safety of all children and adults in the school is paramount. All children are legally required back at school from 8th March and so local authorities can decide to fine parents if a child misses school. However, I would ask any anxious parents to please speak with us directly regarding any concerns they have and we can work together to overcome these for the benefit of the child.

What if my child becomes unwell as school?

If any child shows signs of coronavirus symptoms whilst at school they will be accompanied to a separate room within the school by an adult where their temperature will be taken and parents will be called. Children will be collected from this room if necessary by their parents at the rear of the school (Breakfast Club entrance).

What if my child or a member of the household has been shielding?

At present all shielding is due to cease on 31st March. Any parents who feel their child needs to shield for a particular reason should discuss this with myself.

What happens if there is an outbreak within the school community?

As a school, we have to declare an outbreak if we have more than two coronavirus cases in two week or if there has been a surge in pupils taking sick days where there might have been coronavirus. In such as case we will take immediate advice from the local authority and contact all parents with regards the outcome of this.

Will there be routine testing in school?

Staff carry out lateral flow testing twice a week. There is no testing in place for children.

Will there be parent/teacher consultations?

As we have only just recently had a round of parent/teacher consultations, there will not be any of these in place before Easter. We will be in touch with you with regards the next set of dates for these.

Will there be after-school clubs?

Unfortunately, so far this school year we have been unable to offer an of our after-school extra-curricular clubs. However, we are continuing to look at this and we hope to have them up and running again after Easter for the last two terms of the school year.

The safe return to school is again a challenge to us as a community. However, I take great confidence from how we all worked together in 2020 and I am sure we will continue to do the same as we move forwards.

If you have any other queries which have not been covered either above please do contact me via email ngarvey@eythorne-elvington.kent.sch.uk

Many thanks

Mr Garvey