



Eastergate CE Primary School

Church Lane, Eastergate
Chichester, West Sussex
PO20 3UT

Tel: 01243 542297

www.eastergate.w-sussex.sch.uk

email: office@eastergate.w-sussex.sch.uk

20th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you about the start of the new term in September and some of the arrangements we are putting in place to enable all children to return to school. As a school community, we have really missed being together: children and their friends, teachers and their class. I am really looking forward to September and for us all to be together again so that we can ...

'Learn, Grow and Achieve Together in God's Love'

We have been working over the past few weeks on our plan for all of the children at Eastergate CE Primary to return to school safely in September. There are numerous things to take into consideration to ensure we observe government guidelines and work together to keep our children and their families as safe as possible next term.

Our plans may look different to the arrangements put in place by other local primary schools. This is because our school is unique and presents its own set of challenges. We have looked at our school site very carefully and considered how to adapt and manage the movement of children and adults around the school building to make sure they are able to remain in class sized 'bubbles'. We have altered our timetables to minimise the risk of children from different classes mixing for the time being. This is a measure that is clearly stated in the guidelines for the reopening of schools in September.

The start of the new school year

We have uploaded some information to support transition onto Tapestry and we have made time for transition at the beginning of the new term. Children who are starting school for the first time in September and joining Chaffinch Class will have a separate letter explaining transition arrangements for them. For the rest of the school the arrangements are as follows:

Cont'd/...2



'Learn Grow and Achieve Together in God'



Transition

Years 3,4,5 and 6 will be returning to school and have the same class teacher as last year, but they will be based in their new classrooms from the first day. We will make a short video of their new classroom and publish it on Tapestry on Friday 4th September. The first week of school will be focused on children spending time with friends and their class teacher, and getting back into new school routines, such as washing or sanitising our hands at key times during the school day.

Years 1 and 2 will start the first few days back with their previous class teachers, Mrs McClure or Mrs Jacob, who will spend time with their class and introduce them to their new teacher, before handing them over.

Return to School

Children will start to return to school **from** Monday 7th September 2020. We are inviting children back to school in family groups to make drop off and pick up easier for you. Families will have a start day and time slot during the first two days back. By Wednesday 9th September, all children in years one to six will be back in school full time.

Parents will be discouraged from coming onto the school site unless there is particular reason, or they have children in Chaffinch Class. For children in Chaffinch Class the outside garden area will be used for saying 'goodbye'.

Staggered Days

The government have advised schools that they need to stagger the start and the end of the school day to enable parents to maintain social distancing and to try to maintain class 'bubbles'. At Eastergate we have organised three drop off times for our families and three collection times at the end of the day. This is to make things easier for families and to try to prevent parents and carers having to wait on the school site or in Church Lane.

The actual amount of time the children will spend in school during the school day, has not been altered, only the start and finish has been adjusted to enable social distancing to be observed.

There will be staff at the gate in Church Lane, on the bridge and in the playground to meet and greet the children and show them straight to their classes in the mornings. In the afternoon the children will be led out to the playground or the front of school to be collected by their parent/carer who will be allowed to come onto the school site, but encouraged to socially distance according to the latest government guidelines in September.

Cont'd/...3

If the drop off or collection time your family has been allocated is a problem, please contact the school office at the earliest possible opportunity and we will try to accommodate you.

Voluntary one-way system through Church Lane

We hope to trial a voluntary one-way system from September in Church Lane. This is to manage the traffic in Church Lane and the surrounding roads to make it safer for families to walk, cycle or scooter to school. More information will follow at the end of the summer holiday.

Lunchtime

We are really pleased that we are able to offer children hot lunches. Children in years one to six will eat in their classrooms and lunches will be delivered to the classroom. Children in Chaffinch Class will eat in the school hall. Please make sure you book a school lunch if your child is in years three to six. Don't forget children need to bring their packed lunch to school in a plastic box that can be easily cleaned.

The past few months will have affected everyone differently and the impact of being away from school and the economic implications of lockdown will be with us for some time to come. We are here to help and support. If you or your child have any questions or worries about returning to school, please contact us and we will do our very best to help.

In the meantime I hope and pray you all have a pleasant summer break and we look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Best wishes,



Mrs Catherine Ward
Headteacher