

Full opening for all year groups at East Stour Primary School and Nursery School- March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are so excited to welcome you all back on the 8th March.

In order to comply with the revised government guidance we are reissuing our protocols and FAQs. There are small changes to government expectations so please read the guidance carefully.

Below is the key information and some reminders that outline some of the measures in place to prevent transmission. Much of this information you will have seen before when we reopened in September last year, but we know it is helpful to have some reminders when so much has happened over the past few months. It may also be helpful to speak to your child/ren about what the return to school will be like. We wish to reassure you that safety will always remain our top priority and we will continue to review and update our risk assessments and these plans, in line with government or local authority guidance.

- Pupils, staff and other adults **must not** come into the school if they have Covid-19 symptoms (a new, continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of or change in their normal sense of taste or smell-anosmia) or if they have tested positive in the last 7 days
- Pupils, staff and other adults must not come into school if a member of their household has Covid-19 symptoms. They are advised to self-isolate for 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms or until a test result is received
- Pupils, staff and other adults should self-isolate for 10 days if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19)
- All members of the school community should book a test if they are displaying symptoms. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit
- Other members of the household (including any siblings) must self-isolate for 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, until the test result is received
- The school should be informed immediately following the results of a test
- We will work with the local health protection team (PHE) to guide actions following a positive test

Staggered Entrance and Exit Times

We will revert to the same staggered start and finish times we had in September.

Bansky: 8.40-8.50 & 3.00-3.10

Hamilton: 8.30-8.40 & 2.50-3.00

Hemsworth: 9.00-9.10 & 3.20-3.30

Rowling: 8.50-9.00 & 3.10-3.20

If you are not sure which house your child/ren are in please call or email the office (officeteam@east-stour.kent.sch.uk)

On a Wednesday afternoon, as before, the school will close from 1.20pm for a deep clean of shared areas and to enable teachers to have their PPA. We will provide childcare for pupils who have working parents. Staggered times for Wednesday afternoons:

Bansky: 1.30-1.40

Hamilton: 1.20-1.30

Hemsworth: 1.50-2.00

Rowling: 1.40-1.50

If your child is attending the wraparound provision your pick up time will be 3.00-3.10pm regardless of their house.

- **Only one adult should drop off or collect**

- **Our families are strongly encouraged to wear a mask for drop off/pick up, unless they are exempt.**
- **Non school age children should not be brought unless necessary**
- **Do not arrive early or stay on the playground for longer than is needed to pick up your children**
- **You must exit as soon as you have your children**
- **It is crucial for adults and children to be adhering to strict social distancing at all times**
- **Pupils or siblings must not play on any playground equipment**
- **Please avoid being late on arrival (in the morning) as this will delay your ability to leave site quickly. If you are late please call the office on 01233 630820. You will be advised to wait with your child outside the office until a member of staff is available to collect them.**
- **If you are late to collect, your child will remain in their classroom and it will be recorded as a late collection. Please avoid this at all costs as it will interfere with the thorough cleaning schedule that begins as soon as the pupils leave site**
- **Gathering at the school gates and otherwise coming onto the site without an appointment is not allowed**
- **The front door to school will be locked. Only one person will be let in at a time and face coverings should be worn (unless exempt).**

We thank you for your understanding that we must be strict with these timings and protocols to ensure that social distancing can be maintained and drop off and collections are as safe as possible for everybody.

Infection Prevention and Control

We have carefully followed the government guidance and continue to update an East Stour Specific Risk Assessment. This mainly focuses on 2 areas: Maintaining distance where possible (mainly older children) and keeping groups as small as possible (bubbles). Handwashing will be often and for at least 20 seconds. There will be increased and thorough cleaning of all areas, with a focus on shared spaces and equipment. Large crowds will be avoided at drop off and pick up and in school at lunchtime.

What children should bring to school

As before, pupils must wear full school uniform but they may wear trainers or more comfortable footwear appropriate for indoor and outdoor use.

Your child will not need a PE kit for the first few weeks. Any PE will be carried out with their normal uniform. Once we have settled back into the routine your child will be asked to wear PE kit to school on the days they are having PE. Your child's class teacher will notify you of this before it happens.

If a child is wearing a face mask on travelling to school this must be removed at the school gates and taken away by the parent before the child enters the gate, or put in a sealable plastic bag and in the child's school bag.

Pupils may bring a bag, bottle, packed lunch, coats, hats, warm clothes, a change of clothes and wet weather wear. In years 5 and 6 they may wish to bring their own pencil case (only for their use). If your child is not wearing trainers as part of their school uniform you may wish to send them in with a pair to change into for sports activities or outdoor learning. Please avoid bringing in mobile phones unless absolutely necessary. Mobile phones are brought into school at the family's own risk and must be switched off. Mobile phones will be stored appropriately during the day at the owner's risk.

Face Coverings/PPE

The main change to the guidance we have received this time is around face coverings.

Please prepare your child that adults have been advised to wear face coverings around school when they are not in their bubbles.

Children are not required to wear a face mask as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education.

Staff will not be wearing face coverings when working with their class. Staff may wear transparent plastic visors when working within 1m of a child, for example when doing 1:1 reading. These will allow for faces still to be seen and communication to remain clear. It is now recommended for staff to wear face coverings in corridors and communal areas, or at times when social distancing may not be possible. PPE will also be worn if a child's care routinely involves intimate care needs, if a child has symptoms or if an adult believes they will need to physically intervene to prevent a child from harming themselves or others.

SEND

We would like to reassure all parents of children with SEND that the provision your child accessed prior to the pandemic may look different, but **will** still be taking place. If your child was on an alternative timetable a member of the SEND team will discuss this with you. If your child accessed lunchtime support clubs such as 'chill club' there will be specific provision available within their bubbles. If you have any anxieties please contact sen@east-stour.kent.sch.uk

Anxiety

We know that many families and children may be anxious during this difficult time. The recovery curriculum we will embed across school is designed to ease and support anxiety and promote resilience. If you feel your child is overly anxious please speak to the SEN team or the class teacher about more targeted and specialist provision.

Breakfast and Afterschool Club

Breakfast club will be available as usual. Please contact cchamber@east-stour.kent.sch.uk if you require a place. Breakfast club children will be divided into their class bubbles within the hall and playground. After school club will not be available until after Easter (Please contact Kent Play Clubs directly about your after school provision).

School-run after school enrichment clubs will not be running for this term but we will be reviewing this for later in the year.

Communication

- See-Saw will continue to be used as a communication and remote learning tool for children isolating or shielding and be integrated into curriculum planning
- If parents wish to communicate with the school this needs to be via telephone or email
- Please do not visit the school office unless absolutely necessary- please call on 01233 630820 or e-mail officeteam@east-stour.kent.sch.uk
- If you do enter the office, you must wear a face covering (unless exempt) and there is a one-in, one-out policy
- Please do not approach the class staff at the end of the day, to support social distancing. Instead please email the class teacher. Any ad hoc meetings with parents/carers will require a mask to be worn by both staff members and visitors (unless exempt)
- If you would like to speak with one of our Family Liaison Officers please email FLO@east-stour.sch.kent.uk or contact your FLO individually

As always, we are very happy to listen and respond to any queries, concerns or suggestions. Please email slt@east-stour.kent.sch.uk

On a personal note we would like to thank every one of you for the support and amazing contribution you have made to your children's education, safety and wellbeing over the past weeks. This has been an unprecedented situation with challenges that none of us have ever experienced. Both yourselves, your children and our staff have demonstrated incredible resilience and positivity, and at last we can now see a glimpse of light at the end of this very long tunnel.

Kind regards,

Emma Law & The East Stour Leadership Team