



## Eastbury Community School

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**Executive Headteacher:** Mr David Dickson, BSc (Hons), MA, NPQH  
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### Primary School

**Head of Primary:** Ms Aisha Raymond  
[ped@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk](mailto:ped@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk)  
Tel: 020 8507 4612

### Secondary School

[office@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk](mailto:office@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk)  
Tel: 020 8507 4500

### Sixth Form

**Head of Sixth Form:** Mr Dominic Simpson  
[office@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk](mailto:office@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk)  
Tel: 020 8507 4595

11 January 2021

Dear Families,

I hope that you and your families remain well. The level of Covid infection in Barking and Dagenham is among the highest in the country, and continues to rise rapidly. It is therefore extremely important that you read the regular communications you receive from Aisha Raymond (Head of Primary Phase); Sharon Collins (Head of Secondary Phase); myself as Executive Head teacher (All families 3-19); and check our website. I am extremely grateful to those families that have been in touch, and much of this letter provides the answers to the frequently asked questions.

While it's not the start to the year we all hoped for I want to reassure you that we are still doing everything we can do to make learning at ECS simple and safe for everybody. I'll admit that there is a lot to take in at the moment however it is important that you follow our advice, so that we can keep our community safe and young people learning. Thank you so much for all your loyalty and support throughout these difficult times.

It is with great sadness that I have to report that some of our pupils and staff now have relatives or close friends that have died of Covid. If you or your child need bereavement counselling or other types of support please do not hesitate to get in contact with Stavey Primus ([spr@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk](mailto:spr@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk) or Rebecca Lastiotis ( [rla@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk](mailto:rla@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk) ). Stavey Primus can also help families with a lot of other issues and can signpost you to excellent specialized sources of support. She will be joined in the coming weeks by an assistant who will help us to better support all families across the school 3-19.

We are extremely impressed with how quickly our pupils have adapted back to 'remote learning' however there are still some teething problems with some children experiencing difficulties. If you or your child needs support or advice with the learning at home please do not hesitate to get in contact with Shahi Zhorna in Primary ([szh@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk](mailto:szh@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk) ) or Louise Eustace in secondary ( [lho@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk](mailto:lho@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk) ). If you need support with the technology or laptops please do not hesitate to get in contact with Jas Jhita ( [jjh@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk](mailto:jjh@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk) ).

All pupils should be regularly reading for pleasure – this has huge benefits for their academic success and their mental wellbeing. Secondary pupils are urged to make use of our e-library Sora – this can be downloaded to any devices as an app or accessed online using your usual school log in, there is a huge range of titles including audiobooks. <https://soraapp.com/library/uksecondary> Family members can also use the same



log in. Primary phase pupils are being provided with reading material from their teachers, and we are currently exploring if we can extend the secondary library E- titles to include books of interest to primary age pupils.

Many of our pupils have become involved in National writing projects and are being highly commended for their work. Some of this work, through 'Write Back' has now been published nationally. Much of this writing has taken place in the pupils own time and is extremely moving to read. Here's the link to the E-Book : <https://www.write-back.org/2020-ebook>

If your child is part of the cohort coming into school please read the letter from Public Health (on the pop-up) carefully and I urge you and your family to get tested before coming into school, the testing sites are still in operation. This will help to slow the spread of Covid, and keep you and the community safe.

All staff at ECS will be tested for Covid at least once each week. The staff who are working remotely are also tested in case we need to ask them to change their position on the Rota. Staff who work more frequently in school will be tested at least twice each week.

In the secondary phase we will be supplementing the testing we expect all pupils, you and your family to have each week (as outlined above) with onsite testing. Mrs Collins will be sending you the details and can I ask that you provide your consent as soon as possible. We are hoping that Public Health will give us the go ahead for the additional tests in the primary phase in the next couple of weeks. Testing primary age pupils presents more challenges and is logistical more complex, and is therefore nationally talking longer to organize.

Public exams, we still have not had the full guidance after the announcement from the Prime Minister last week, however it has been confirmed there will be some forms of national assessment that will take place. It is therefore extremely important, as I explained last week, that everybody continues with their learning. As soon as we have the full and official guidance we will let you know.

We are well aware that you will have many questions or may need support. We are experiencing high levels of emails at present and it may be quicker to contact your child's Head of Year (Secondary) or Phase (Primary), or the leader who can deal with question directly in the first instance (see the link below). If you do not receive a response from your email within a couple of days please contact the school office by phone, unfortunately some email addresses are treated as junk by our secure system and may not get through. If a personal response is needed we will contact you (so please remember to include your contact number).

Yours sincerely

DAVID DICKSON  
EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

### **Key Email Contacts**

Full list of Key Staff Contacts please click here ([Key Contacts](#))

Primary Aisha Raymond [ara@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk](mailto:ara@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk)

Secondary Sharon Collins [scl@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk](mailto:scl@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk)

Executive Head teacher David Dickson [ddi@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk](mailto:ddi@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk)