



Eastbury Community School

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November 11, 2020

Dear Families

Diwali

ECS has been at the heart of our local community for many years. We have an outstanding reputation for the care we provide for our pupils and this was recognised by OFSTED in 2018. This has never been truer than in 2020 with all of the challenging circumstances and lockdown situations we find ourselves in. We are proud that we have continued to build on this reputation during the pandemic. We will continue to be there for all pupils and families. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any support or have any questions.

Covid Testing in School

We are extremely proud that we are one of 150 nationally that has been chosen randomly to trial mass covid testing in schools using non-intrusive and simple tests. I wrote to you about this last week and you will also have received letters from Mrs Collins and Ms Raymond. Can I urge you to read all of the guidance and reassurance about the testing. We have all been extremely happy to hear of the very promising news of a covid vaccine and this has been made possible by people like you and me volunteering to take part in studies. I will repeat the information I sent last week.

The method involves a saliva test and a small swab just inside the nose, and is different from those used at testing centres. During the week starting Monday 16th November all of primary age children and pupils in years 9 and 10 will be offered a covid test, it is completely confidential and entirely voluntary; and as parents / carers you will need to give your consent and you will receive the result within 72 hours. You will obviously have more questions and more information will be provided for you in the coming week, and once you are happy you will be able to make a decision as to whether your child is tested. The confidential data obtained will help the school, and public health nationally, develop a much fuller understanding of covid and schools, and is very much in the national interest.

Covid Safety in School and the Community

Although there is much hope with the news of a covid vaccine it will be still some time before we can all benefit from it. Pupil, Staff and Community safety continues to be our number one priority at present. We must not let all of the excellent work during the past year go to waste by letting our covid safety measures slip now.

Please remember if your child, or someone in your household, has covid symptoms, it is vital that your child stays at home. The person with symptoms needs to be tested as soon as possible (you can book a test by calling 119 or visiting nhs.uk). Please let the school know as soon as possible if your child has symptoms and when they started; we will also need to know immediately if your child tests positive so that we can work with Public Health to take all the necessary steps in school to keep everybody safe.

Can I reassure you that we are doing all that we can to keep everybody in school safe. It is vitally important we all remember the basics and follow the rules and continue to:



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- HANDS - Wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds.
- FACE - Cover your face in enclosed spaces, especially where social distancing may be difficult and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.
- SPACE - Stay 2 metres apart where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place.
- VENTILATE – We are following the advice to keep rooms well ventilated, this may mean that rooms are cooler than usual. Can you please ensure your child has a school jumper and we will allow pupils to wear their coats in school when needed.

Please regularly visit the government website (<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>) and our website (<http://www.eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk/>) for the latest updates. It is very important that you check our website each morning before leaving for school.

Wilmington Gardens

Transport for London introduced the new travel restrictions for drivers who use Wilmington Gardens on Monday 2nd November 2020. Can I thank you for following these and early indications are that there has been a big improvement in street safety. Full details in their updates to you and you can find the letter from TFL [here](#).

Key reminders

Monday 16th November 2020 Mass Covid Testing begins in school – Primary, Year 9 & 10 Parents / carers please ensure you have completed the online consent forms.

Friday 18th December 2020 – Last day of Winter Term

Monday 21st December 2020 – Friday 1st January, 2021 Christmas Holiday

Monday 4th January, 2021 – First day of Spring term - normal School Day (Please do not forget to check the website in case of any changes during the holiday)

Diwali

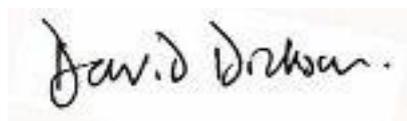
I know that it will be difficult for family and friends to celebrate safely together this year, and technology will be needed. I wish everyone who is celebrating a very happy Diwali, and good health and prosperity in the year ahead. Let this Diwali burn all of your bad times and enter you all into good times.

Finally

I will finish with two sincere notes of thanks: the first is to all of our wonderful staff who are serving on the frontline, supporting our pupils everyday and doing all that they can to ensure they are well educated at school or at home. Their resilience, commitment and dedication to our pupils during this incredibly challenging time continues to amaze me, and I cannot thank them all enough. The second is to you, our families, thank you for all that you are doing to keep your children and the community safe. Thank you for all the words of kindness and support. We all appreciate it.

Please stay safe

Yours sincerely,



David Dickson - Executive Head teacher

For all of our latest updates and guidance please regularly visit our website.

Update on masks / face coverings – Thank you to families who are ensuring their child has a face mask / covering; can I ask that guidance is followed and that you provide a small plastic bag to store it in when not being used, and to carry a spare. If you require any financial assistance with meeting this request please contact Mrs Primus.

PARENTS, KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

When dropping your child off, or waiting to pick them up, you must:

-  wear a face mask (unless you have an exemption)
-  keep at least 2 metres away from others

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PARENTS, HELP KEEP SCHOOLS OPEN

Do not send your child to school if:

-  they are showing coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
-  someone in their household is showing symptoms
-  they should be self-isolating, because they have recently travelled to a country on the quarantine list

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