



Eastbury Community School

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October 22, 2020

Dear Families

I hope you and your families remain healthy and safe. As we continue to update our systems and policies in response to the current and local situation during the covid pandemic I would like to thank you for your continued trust and confidence. It is more important than ever that we all follow the rules so that we can keep our community safe and schools open. 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. We will make every effort to get the latest news onto the website before 08:00 AM. This applies to weather conditions as well as Covid related issues.

Virtual Awards evening goes live

One of my favourite events of the year is now taking place virtually, please see my introduction at the end of this letter. [ECS Virtual Awards Ceremony](#)

Half Term Activities

Please make your sure your child has a good rest during half term and at least a few days break from school studies. I am well aware that the new covid restrictions mean that a lot of the fun activities are not possible. I have included a couple of links below to help you find activities for both primary and secondary aged pupils.

[Five ideas for fun things to do if your child is 'shielding'](#) for use at any time.

[Parents and Carers toolkit](#) for organising fun activities to complete during a pandemic half term

Support for Parents and Carers

Please remember that we cannot all be experts in everything and at some point all parents and carers will need to turn to someone for advice and support. As we approach half term I am reminding you of organisations that can help you and your child as we will not be as easily accessible as we are during term times. The following links have been highly recommended and contain links to more specialist advice if needed.

- <https://www.annafreud.org/parents-and-carers/>
- <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/>
- <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Wilmington Gardens



Artsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Transport for London have informed the school about new travel restrictions for drivers who use Wilmington Gardens from Monday 2nd November 2020. I have asked Aisha Raymond and Sharon Collins to provide full details in their updates to you and you can find the letter from TFL [here](#).

Key reminders

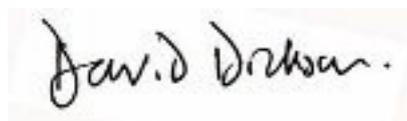
Friday 23rd October – Staff Training Day (School closed to all pupils)

Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October Half Term Holiday

Monday 2nd November – School Day (Please do not forget to check the website in case of any changes during the holiday)

Please stay safe and have an enjoyable half term.

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 provided a small plastic bag to store it in when not being used. As already stated above if you require any financial assistance with meeting this request please contact Mrs Primus.

In order to keep us all safe in the borough, it is vitally important we all remember the basics and follow the rules and continue to:

- 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.

Please remember if you, or someone in your household, have symptoms, it is vital that you stay home and book a test by calling 119 or visiting [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk)

ECS Awards October 2020 – Extract from the Virtual event and Programme

<https://eastburycomp.fluencycms.co.uk/Virtual-Awards-2020>

Welcome to one of my favorite events, and a highlight of the school year, our Annual Awards Ceremony. Can I start by thanking Anita Ark, Stuart Gander, and all of the students and staff who have made this virtual event possible. I am very pleased that you and, everybody who wants to can join us, in celebrating our students' achievements in 2020. As always this event makes me feel very proud and privileged to be the Executive Head teacher of our great School.

We are all living in not just socially distanced times, but also in some of the most difficult times in recent history. This makes the achievements of our amazing students even greater. They have all had to overcome the challenges of a global pandemic. These challenges are far greater than the majority of adults have had to face in

recent history. At no time since the last world war has so much been asked of our young people with all of the new covid routines; and indeed has so much been taken away in terms of being able to socialise freely. They have all shown great resilience and determination, when many would have given up. Our award winners in 2020 will go down in history as our greatest ever. I am truly humbled, and I ask everybody to never forget that sometimes asking for help is a great strength, and will allow you to become even greater. I would also like to reflect on the words of Zadie Smith "All that matters is kindness and the capacity to recognise the existence of people other than yourself"; and Nicola Adams OBE "I always look back on the hard times. It's what gives me the drive and ambition to keep moving forward".

Can I stress that at Eastbury we celebrate the progress of all students, and their contributions to the school and wider community as well as academic excellence. We also go out of our way to celebrate all through the year and praise the 99.9% of young people who are such great ambassadors for their generation; and we are here to help the 0.1% who still need to learn how to make a positive contribution to society.

At Eastbury we never rest on our laurels, we always challenge ourselves, we want everybody to be the best that they can be in everything they do. We have always known everyone is capable of learning and we will help them. The neuroscientists are now proving it! Everyone can learn and make progress.

Not everybody is an award winner yet; as Gandhi said "Glory lies in the attempt to reach one's goal and not in reaching it" and "You may never know what results come of your actions, but if you do nothing, there will be no results".

This programme and virtual event is our victory parade. We are pausing to salute the different achievements and impressive destinations of our students. Please take the time to read it, and enjoy watching it; and be inspired.

We are all part of one great team and before you read on can I thank you for taking the time to read and watch, and ask you to applaud yourselves:

The Staff, that is all staff caretakers and cleaners, Secretaries, Kitchen staff, Finance teams, Teaching assistants, Youth workers, Mentors and all those working hard behind the scenes as well as the teachers for their dedication and professionalism. Working at Eastbury is truly an all-consuming vocation.

The Families for all of the support and encouragement you give your child and the school

The primary school staff who lay the foundations for our success, I am pleased that some of them are taking part in this virtual event.

The Governors and Local authority for their support and challenge. A special thank you to our chair, Mr Roy Patient has supported Eastbury for over forty years.

As you read on and take part in this in this virtual event, please applaud our hard working students who have risen to new heights. Award winners remember the words of Maya Angelou "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better" and Langston Hughes "Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly."

We may be living in very uncertain and confusing times but I know the future is safe in the hands of our amazing students. We need all of our young people more than ever; I know they will make a better job of recovering

from the pandemic than us adults! “From your past emerges the present, and from the present emerges your future” Muhammad Iqbal.

Can I leave you with some thoughts:

We all have to remember that success is a journey not a destination, we will not stop, we want to keep on improving and breaking records. We want every child to be hugely successful, be able to control their own career paths and make positive contributions to the community

Successful Students, you must see this evening as milestone in your journey. I am confident that you will go on to achieve even greater things in the future.

Students who think I can never do that, you must think and say I cannot do that yet. Success happens after lots of little steps not just one giant step. It is not cheating to ask for help after you have tried your best and after you have produced your first draft, indeed we are making the work hard. Rearrange the letters of cheating, they become teaching and that is what we do here, so ask for help.

Everybody who has made a mistake and that includes me. Learn from it and listen to the feedback and advice

Stop working hard all of the time! Look after your physical and mental health, remember to get involved in relaxation activities sport, music, drama and pursue those hobbies. I do not want you to work and study hard all of the time. If you are becoming stressed by the work ask for help, your family and friends can help or we have a team of professionals who work for us who can help.

Finally we are proud of each and every one of all our students, this is your event and I warmly congratulate you all on your many achievements.

David Dickson, Executive Head teacher.

The image contains two informational panels with a blue and yellow striped border. The left panel is titled "PARENTS, KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE" and lists two requirements: wearing a face mask and keeping at least 2 metres away from others. The right panel is titled "PARENTS, HELP KEEP SCHOOLS OPEN" and lists three conditions under which a child should not be sent to school: showing symptoms, someone in the household showing symptoms, or recent travel to a quarantine list country. Both panels include the Barking & Dagenham logo.

Panel Title	Content
PARENTS, KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE	<p>When dropping your child off, or waiting to pick them up, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wear a face mask (unless you have an exemption) keep at least 2 metres away from others <p>Barking & Dagenham</p>
PARENTS, HELP KEEP SCHOOLS OPEN	<p>Do not send your child to school if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Barking & Dagenham</p>