



Eastbury Community School

Hulse Avenue | Barking | Essex | IG11 9UW

Telephone: 020 8507 4500 | **Fax:** 020 8507 4501 | **Web:** www.eastburyschool.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr David Dickson, BSc (Hons), MA, NPQH
headteacher@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk

Primary School

Head of Primary: Ms Aisha Raymond
ped@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk
Tel: 020 8507 4612

Secondary School

office@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk
Tel: 020 8507 4500

Sixth Form

Head of Sixth Form: Mr Dominic Simpson
office@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk
Tel: 020 8507 4595

15th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a change a week can bring! Nursery provision is now open to all our nursery children due to a change that was published by the government late last week. Thank you for all your hard work with the home learning. It has been lovely to see all work being uploaded on Class Dojo and on Tapestry. We hope you are enjoying the home learning videos and we appreciate all feedback that is being provided to us. Thank you to everyone for coping with everything that has happened in such a short amount of time. We are continually looking at improving our offering to you all and more details are below. If you are a critical worker, thank you for keeping our country going. If you are now having to support your child with remote learning – thank you for taking on this essential role. If you are trying to juggle both – thank you and our thoughts are with you.

Reception Meeting

A huge thank you to Miss Knight who ran a parent catch up for Reception parents. This was well received and the parents who attended found it useful to get their questions answered. There will be further sessions in the future for the remainder year groups, please keep an eye out for details of these sessions.

Government Update

The government updated their guidance last week and announced that children of critical workers should be kept at home, if this is at all possible. This helps reduce the number of children on site and therefore limits the risk to all those on the school premises. The guidance does make it clear that children of critical workers should stay at home if they can. Critical worker places at school should only be used if the child not being in school would prevent the critical worker from attending their critical role. Where there is a parent/carer at home the best place for your child is at home. If after reading this you no longer need the space please send an email to EKN@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk.

Please note that we do require you to fill in a survey each week to guarantee your child a space in the critical worker/ vulnerable bubbles. The link is posted on class dojo and tapestry weekly for you to update us on requirements. Please only fill this in if you meet the requirements that are laid out by the government. The link for this weeks survey is below.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=Osr3diS4GI8B2LK6A7c6um7BBt2ubLWZ&id=3tLCZ90wx0ihi4_SQxYGSbwjxwqA-XhOsFqFHIhGRmVUNTVIVVJVWUJSQU5ZNjDRkVBWVVDQ041Sy4u

Remote Learning

It has been great to hear all the positive feedback regarding Remote Learning. The government guidance is that should be providing up to 3 hours of home learning for your child to complete every day, this is essential to ensuring they are being exposed to all the National Curriculum objectives for their year group. However, we know this can be overwhelming, so to support you with this, we are asking that you focus on Reading, Maths and Literacy lessons. Topic lessons can be completed throughout the day or even during the weekend. Remember Topic lessons incorporate a range of subjects such as PE and Art, which can be completed independently by child/ren during the evening or with a sibling. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you require further support, alternatively you can contact Miss Zhorna who is leading the Remote Learning provision at SZH@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk.

Learning in School

The learning in school will follow as closely as possible to the home learning set. If children are in for some days and then home for others they will need to keep up by doing the work at home as well, or they will be behind when they come back to school.

Communication with Teachers and Support Staff

Class dojo is an amazing tool that you are all using effectively to communicate with adults within the school. May we please request that you do not message staff beyond 6.30pm in the evening and also not during the weekends. Please be aware that staff will only be responding to messages during their working day to support their wellbeing.

Laptop Scheme

We are trying to ensure that all children have access to our remote learning and with regards to the laptop scheme that is being discussed in the media, please note that these laptops are for the duration of lockdown only. They will need to be returned once schooling for your child resumes. We were only provided a minimal amount from the government, which have been allocated to children based on need. We are now using the school's laptops and iPads to ensure that children have a device in the home. This is limited to one per household and should only be used if you have no other option for a device.. If you are struggling for a device, please notify your class teacher via class dojo.

Welfare Calls

Please note, welfare calls are being made weekly. You may get a phone call from a private number during this period. It would be really helpful if you could answer these calls as it allows us to check in with you and ensure we can provide the necessary support.

Vouchers

For those of you who are in receipt of free school meals, the vouchers are now beginning to arrive and will be emailed out to you shortly. If you do not receive this by the end of next week, please can you email Miss Knight at EKN@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk.

Wellbeing

As always, wellbeing is at the heart of our school and community and we continually promote it. Please see the tips below to support your child/ren's wellbeing at home.

Family Testing

I would urge that any child who is attending school provision complete a test each week with their family as advised by public health. Please see below the different test centres. Please notify the school of the pupil and family results. This will further help to ensure we can all keep safe during this pandemic.

| Location | Opening times |
|---|--|
| Mayesbrook Park Car Park, Lodge Avenue, Dagenham RM8 2JR (opposite Ilchester Road) | 8am to 8pm |
| Chadwell Heath Community Centre, High Road, Chadwell Heath RM6 6AS | 8am to 8pm |
| Curzon Community Centre car park, Bastable Avenue, Barking IG11 0LG Opening Saturday 16 January | 2pm to 5pm (Saturday 16 January), 10am to 5pm (Sunday 17 January), 8am to 8pm from Monday 18 January onwards |

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,



Ms. A Raymond

Head of Primary



Wellbeing -The Power of Play!

When children are asked what is important to them, playing and friends is usually top of their list. When you ask your child what they did at school, they will likely put a lot of emphasis, if not all, on playtime! It is an essential part of every child's life and is vital for the enjoyment of childhood as well as social, emotional, intellectual and physical development.

Unfortunately, opportunities to engage in high quality play have been threatened by the current pandemic. Children need play for social connection, to aid learning and to help them process a lot of complex emotions, especially during this time.

Five ways play benefits children:

1. Play gives children a chance to find and develop a connection to their own self-identified and self-guided interests.
2. It is through play that children first learn how to make decisions, solve problems, exert self-control, and follow rules.
3. Children learn to handle their emotions, including anger and fear, during play.
4. Play helps children make friends and learn to get along with each other as equals.
5. Most importantly, play is a source of happiness.

Play isn't just important for children; it has many benefits for adults too! While play is crucial for a child's development, it is also beneficial for people of all ages. Play can add joy to life, relieve stress, supercharge learning, and connect you to others and the world around you. Play can also make work more productive and pleasurable!

<https://www.shutterfly.com/ideas/the-best-family-games-to-play-at-home/>

If you haven't already come across her, **Dr Kathy Weston** has a wealth of interesting content on wellbeing in children and adults and her current newsletter has information on the magic of play. Well worth a read!

<https://www.drkathyweston.com/>

