



Eastbury Community School

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12th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

Another week and more updates from Government and Public Health England.

School continues to be open for the children of Critical Workers – if you are a critical worker and you need to send your son/daughter in then please send me an email to inform me so I can ensure that we have the correct staffing in place. Government guidelines is if you can safely keep your son/daughter home then do so, as this will help with reducing transmission rates.

If you have been contacted because your son/daughter is in the vulnerable category the Government guidelines is that these young people should attend school, and if they are not then the school needs to be notified of the reason why they are not attending.

Those pupils, and staff, who are in school, are asked to take a lateral flow test twice a week. This test gives a result in 30 minutes, and will allow us to keep the school as safe as we can. Those pupils who are attending will be bringing home 2 letters, one that explains how the NHS will use and store data, and a consent form for the lateral flow test. We strongly urge all parents/carers to consent to this test. These forms will also be available on the website.

There has also been an update from the Department of Education regarding GCSEs and A Levels. These exams will not be going ahead in the usual format, and a decision on what the format will be has yet to be announced. For those pupils in these year groups it is essential that they complete and submit all work set, to the best of their ability, as it may be that this will be needed by teachers to help with centre-assessed grades.

We understand at this time some families are finding it difficult to access all of the on line learning due to poor internet connection. The Government have put a programme in place where schools can request free data on pupils' behalf. In order to access additional data via your son/daughters' mobile phone, you need to complete the survey that was sent out earlier this week so that we can organise the additional data for you.

As a school, we are constantly adding to the number of devices that we have available to support remote learning. If your son/daughter does not have access to an appropriate device, please let me know and we can see if we are able to provide one. They are limited, and it is one device per household. If we are unable to provide an appropriate device, then your son/daughter can come into school to access remote learning.

From next week, we will also be providing additional resources to support remote learning – such as paper, pens, etc. as well as period products. More details will follow at the beginning of next week.

Free School Meal vouchers are being distributed now, if you have not received them by Friday 15th January, please contact me so that we can chase this up. Also, if your circumstances have changed, then



please do register for free school meals at <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/financial-support-for-pupils-and-students>

Remote learning is very different to being taught, or teaching, face to face, and we are very aware that 5 hours in front of a screen is not good for anyone, so we are working on providing work that is a combination of live/recorded lessons, tasks, independent study, feedback and consolidation. We are also having assemblies, form times and well-being sessions as part of our PSHE programme.

The levels of engagement from our pupils has been great, and we need to keep this momentum up, as we do not know how long this lockdown will last. Please keep checking our website, as we are updating it regularly with additional information for pupils and parents to support home learning and wellbeing.

Many thanks for your ongoing support, and we have received messages of support from many of our parents and carers, and this is much appreciated, especially at this time of constant change.

Please take care and stay safe.

Sharon Collins

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Collins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Head of Secondary