

Great Easton C of E (Aided) Primary School
Snow Hill
Great Easton
Dunmow
Essex CM6 2DR

Tel: 01371 870219
E-mail: admin@greateaston.essex.sch.uk

Headteacher: Claire Jackman

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Dear Parents and Carers

Parents' Guide to Autumn Term 2020 **(Please print and keep this guide handy!)**

We are very excited that we will be able to welcome everyone back again in September and have a school full of laughter and chatting children again, but as you can imagine, it will not be 'back to normal'. There are very detailed and complex guidelines from the Government which we must follow and adapt for our own school setting. These will be in place until further notice. Please read this whole letter carefully. When your child comes into school, it is on the understanding that you have read and will comply with all the regulations. Our aim is to create an environment that will be able to stay open to pupils unless there is a local lockdown and we are told to close. As advised by Dr Matt in his latest Coronacast

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXsWp4Qib3k> - "fear the worst and prepare for it".

Although these measures may seem strict, they are designed to be robust.

Class bubbles

Each classroom will become a bubble. This means that the children within that bubble will not change and neither will adults. Children will not be required to socially distance from each other within a bubble, but adults are required to be distanced from children and even more importantly from each other.

Class bubbles will operate as their own mini school. They will have their own playtime and lunchtime and stay separate from other bubbles. We are very aware that children may have siblings in different bubbles, and in some cases, staff may have relatives in different bubbles. However, the reason for this decision is that if someone in a bubble tests positive for Covid-19, only that bubble will have to isolate for 14 days rather than the whole school closing for 14 days. By limiting the contact as much as we can, we can reduce the chance of unnecessary contamination and keep everyone as safe as possible.

Everything that normally happens in class will be able to happen, and children will have loads of fun and be with their friends. We cannot wait!

Hand washing

There will be regular handwashing throughout the school day. If you can provide your child with a small bottle of antibacterial gel, please do so as these come in very handy as well.

School bus children

You will be advised by the companies directly, but the children currently travelling to school on the school bus or in a taxi are wearing face masks for the journey to and from school. We



suggest that if your child will be travelling on the bus that you get them a mask and make sure they can put it on and take it off independently.

Drop-off and Collection Times and Locations

We will be closing the school car park to all parents other than those with children in Reception.

Reception children's arrival time is between 8.30-8.40 and collection between 2.50 and 3pm. You may come up to your child's classroom but we would ask that you remember to stay socially distanced from each other and keep gates and walkways clear. If you have children in older year groups, they may of course come into school at the same time, and their pickup will be the same too.

Apart from those coming on the school bus, all other children will be required to enter and leave school via the walking bus route. You will need to drop your child by the village hall car park, see them safely through the first gate and then return to your car and leave. We will have staff members on duty and spread out along the walking bus route to ensure all children get into school safely. Parents of year 1-6 will not be allowed on the school site.

At pick up time, we will use the same system, but in reverse. The only difference will be that you will need to come just into the field by the village hall so that staff can release children directly to you - they will not be allowed to walk through the village hall car park to find you.

To enable all of this to happen without a bottle neck, we will have staggered timings for drop off and collection. We know some of you are early birds - please do not arrive early. We know some of you are always late - please do not be late. Please adhere to the time you are given. Staff will be visible at all times on the walking bus route, and if you cannot see them it is because they have gone into school and external access gates will be locked. Do not drop your child late and assume they will be able to get into school if this is the case. If you are later than the final allocated time, you will need to take your child to the main entrance and sign them in as late.

	Drop off time	Collection Time
Surnames A - D	8.25 - 8.35	3.00 - 3.10
Surnames E - L	8.40 - 8.50	3.15 - 3.25
Surnames M - Z	8.55 - 9.05	3.35 - 3.45

Clubs

There will be no after-school clubs for the Autumn Term due to the need to keep bubbles separate from each other.

Breakfast and KidsClub

A separate letter will be sent to people who have applied to use this service. They will continue to run, but changes will be made to adapt to the new regulations.

School Office

Where possible, communication should be by email or telephone with payments made via Schnappy. We would like to discourage access to the school office in person, but if it is an emergency, there are spots on the floor for you to stand on while you wait, with a maximum of 2 people in the foyer at any time. If you are queuing outside, please keep the doorway clear.

Schoolwear

This will be as normal - details on school website if you are not sure. Please make sure your child has wellies for their playtimes on the field as well as for the walking bus route.

Lunchtime

Eating times will be staggered, but dinners will be available as usual for those children who would like them.

School trips / swimming

We are unlikely to have any class trips this term, but if we do, we will contact you separately. Hopefully, we can at least hold some 'Zooms' with people to link with our school projects. We are doubtful that we will be swimming in the autumn term but are awaiting information from the pool and will let you know as soon as we can.

Emergency Plans

Closure

In the event that we are closed due to an enforced lockdown, we will provide online lessons to continue the work that would be happening in class at the time.

Illness

Any children who are ill or start showing symptoms of Covid-19 will be sent home. Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell in any way or showing any symptoms of covid-19.

This is taken directly from the Government guidance:

- if someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu - in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
- if someone tests positive, they should follow the '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

PLEASE make sure you inform us if anyone in your family shows symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19. Children must not attend school if this is the case.

Communication

We will inform all parents if we have a positive test within the school community. It is imperative that you do the same and keep us informed. This is essential in helping to control potential spikes of outbreaks of Covid-19.

Love of Learning, Life and Living

Despite all these measures we will make sure that school is the fun, warm, loving place that it has always been. It will feel different, but we have some wonderful plans to ensure the children transition back to school life as quickly and easily as possible. Their mental health and well-

being will remain our priority and we plan on making sure they get the very best education whilst having the time and space to adjust to life back in school. It will take time, but we are looking forward to having them all back again. We will of course share more information with you nearer the time.

Please also be prepared for a very different Christmas time, we are not expecting to be able to put on a nativity or show I'm afraid. We will make up for it all as soon as we can and hopefully there can be a summer spectacular instead! Thank you for all your hard work and support throughout lockdown, you have done an incredible job in the most challenging time.

Yours sincerely

Claire Jackman

Claire Jackman
Headteacher

Holly Miles

Holly Miles
Asst Headteacher

Jeremy Toynbee

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Chair of Governors