

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

24<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### **Year Group Socialising Saturdays!**

Dear Parents and Carers

We have been extremely cautious with our re-opening and have tried to keep any staff who fall into the vulnerable category at home offering virtual support with families who requested it. Your support in keeping your children at home, for those who have been able to, has meant that we have been successful in doing this, so we are very grateful.

We are very aware that for those children who are not in the year groups chosen by the government that it will be an awfully long time between school closure in March and September. Lots of you have said how your children would love to be in school just to see their friends and interact in a larger group.

To facilitate this, Holly and I would like to invite each year group into school for a play session on the last two Saturdays of term. This is totally optional and if you would rather wait until September then we support this. We have been issued guidance from Essex County Council and are allowed to do this, in line with a full risk assessment.

The sessions will be play based - games and circle times used to allow the children to laugh and play with their friends in a structured and safe way, ensuring social distancing but lots of fun. We will be outside so children will need: clothes appropriate to the weather on that day i.e. rain jacket and jumper or hat and sun cream; a packed lunch with plenty of snacks; and a large drink bottle which we can re-fill. If it is not good enough weather for us to be outside, then we will not be able to run the sessions as we cannot accommodate the children indoors safely. We are using the fact we will be out in the fresh air to help us keep everyone as safe as possible. We are offering Saturdays so that we do not have to disrupt the bubbles running in school throughout the week.

You will need to drive into school via the parent car park and onto the school field. We have a very successful roundabout kiss and drop system running - please watch the video on the following link to see how this operates:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UuX1CdesoCHAX6NEB4wU2DTqX0ha\\_LEd/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UuX1CdesoCHAX6NEB4wU2DTqX0ha_LEd/view?usp=sharing)

In order to offer this opportunity, we will have to insist all children maintain the strictest 2m social distancing and we will only be outside in the fresh air. If it rains, we will need to postpone and will do another date. Obviously, children may need the toilet and a member of staff will thoroughly clean after them to minimise the risk of children touching a surface others have touched. We have studied the guidance from the Government which allows schools to risk assess and we feel that we could manage this safely for each year group for an hour. Holly and I and the children will be at a minimal risk for these sessions. However, the impact on the children's well-being will be significant. We will plan games and activities to lead in smaller

groups so children will not have contact in groups larger than 15. We are very fortunate to have ample grounds to facilitate this.

If these are successful, we may well do them again at the end of the summer to give the children another chance to come and socialise with their class before we start back at school. We will be writing with more information about transitions when we share the class information.

We know that this idea might not suit everyone, or be safe for families shielding, but hope that you understand we are trying to mark the end of the academic year for all pupils in the safest way we can. We really appreciate all the support you have given us over the last few months and hope that we will know more about the Government's plans for the next academic year very soon.

Please reply by email to Sharon at [admin@greateaston.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@greateaston.essex.sch.uk) by 12pm on Friday 3rd July to confirm your wish for your child/ren to attend the year group games session.

Best wishes

*Claire and Holly*

<b>Day and time</b>	<b>Year Group</b>
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> July 10:00-11:00	Reception
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> July 11:30-12:30	Year 1
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> July 1:00-2:00	Year 2
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2:30-3:30	Year 3
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> July 4:00-5:00	Year 4
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 10:00-11:00	Year 5
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 11:30-12:30	Year 6