



## *The Riverside Federation*

3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I am sure that you have all been following the news over the last few days, where the government have decided to close all London schools for the next two weeks and to delay the start for all secondary schools and colleges. This has led some people to think that primary schools in our local area are also closed. As I mentioned last week, at this point in time this is not the case and primary schools across the country (apart from the ones in London) have been instructed to open.

This is an incredibly challenging and frustrating time for all of us and I appreciate that you as parents need to know what is happening as soon as possible. As it stands, we have enough staff in each school to be able to open. However, should the situation change over the next few hours, we may need to only open to key workers and vulnerable children

### Key workers

Here's a link to the up to date list of key workers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

It is absolutely essential that you complete the key worker request form please if you require your child to be in school, as it takes a lot of organisation to sort out the key groups and staff to support them.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gT\\_Br5A70kiQ90fdVfwYmz8lDeHFwndMg6zzdQNhGJIUOVgxOFNBNUtGQjQ4RUNQUUZLNVVQRUKwMC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gT_Br5A70kiQ90fdVfwYmz8lDeHFwndMg6zzdQNhGJIUOVgxOFNBNUtGQjQ4RUNQUUZLNVVQRUKwMC4u)

### Changes to our risk assessments

As it stands, as I write tonight, both schools open as normal on Tuesday. However, as a result of the latest strain of the virus being much more transmissible, we have reviewed our risk assessment and have made a number of changes of which I wish to make you aware.

- All staff will wear visors at all times and if they are within 2m of a child, they will also wear a mask with their visor. I cannot enforce this, but I have strongly advised and so far, all staff have said they will choose to wear this extra protection. There has been no guidance

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released about 11 year olds and masks in primary schools but I know that some parents had begun to ask me if their child is expected to wear one, as 11 year olds are in secondary schools. At the moment, primary aged children are not expected to wear masks but I'll let you know if this changes.

- Much as it pains me to say it, staff will avoid marking books 'in the moment' – instead a lot of the feedback will be whole class. We believe that virus control is far more important at this point in time and I hope you understand. We'll still send reading books home but they will be quarantined in school for one week on return.
- No staff will work across bubbles. We had to do this beforehand to be able to remain open, but we have rearranged timetables to ensure that staff only remain in one bubble
- Whilst we have two classes in one bubble, the children will not mix inside within the bubble. This means that all assemblies/acts of worship will be delivered via Teams for this half term. The only time children will come into contact with the children in the same class as their bubble is outside, where a distance of 2m will be strongly encouraged. We do acknowledge that social distancing is very hard in primary schools and this has also been recognised in governmental reports, but we will remind the children of the importance of maintaining the distance.
- Both trim trails are going to be closed for this half term.
- Unfortunately, at Eastoft we have taken the decision to suspend violin lessons, as Ms Albans works in the KS1 bubble. We will review this at half term.

### Out of school provision

- We have also sadly decided to suspend after school clubs. If you still need it for child care, please let me know and we will run it in the same format as the breakfast club.

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- As far as breakfast club is concerned, we do need to know as soon as you possibly can if your child needs to attend. We may need to bring in another member of staff so that we can keep the key stages separate. At the moment they sit well away from each other but ideally, we would prefer staff not to mix bubbles.

### End to the school day

- Whilst we know it causes a great deal of disruption to learning time, I feel that we will need to maintain the staggered end to the day, to limit the number of parents on site at any one time. To limit disruption to classes, we would like to try it a slightly different way:

**EYFS** will finish at **3.15**. Please go to the EYFS area to wait for your child and they will be dismissed to you. Unless you have an older sibling, please leave the site promptly.

**KS1** will finish at **3.20**. Mrs Thompson's parents, please wait on the KS1 playground and spread into the EYFS area if clear. Mrs Parrott's parents, please wait on the playground and she will dismiss the children to you.

**KS2** will finish at **3.30**. Please wait, well-spaced apart, on the KS2 playground.

### Collection points

If you have children in more than one class, all of your children will leave at 3.30. i.e. teachers will hold onto the younger children until you arrive at 3.30 to collect them all. Eastoft parents, we will send the KS2 children to you, so please wait with your younger child on the EYFS/KS1 playground. There will be a member of staff on the gate so children will not be left unsupervised.

Luddington parents, please go to the EYFS area first if you have a younger child and then bring them back to collect your older child from the KS2 playground, where they will be waiting with their teacher. Please make sure your children are not playing on the Trim Trail at the end of the day and that you leave the playground promptly. Thank you. Please also make sure you do not stand at the entrance to the school gates so that we can keep the area as clear as we possibly can.

This may take a few days to adjust to so please continue to be kind and bear with us. As always, the safety of the children comes first. Whilst most people adhered to social distancing before Christmas, I cannot stress enough how important it is that everyone continues to do so please. Please also make sure you're wearing a mask, unless you have

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exemption. If these arrangements are going to be tricky for you, please get in touch with me. Thank you.

### Swimming

I also would really appreciate your thoughts on KS2 swimming, which is due to take place in the Spring term. We sent you information re their risk assessment before Christmas and the pool is only used by our pupils at the time of lessons. Only one class is going at a time, so we won't be mixing bubbles. If we postpone, we run the risk of the children not being able to go swimming this year as the programme is very tight. If your child is in KS2 and was due to go swimming, please complete this form so I can get an idea of your opinion. Thank you  
[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gT\\_Br5A70kiQ90fdVfwYmz8lDeHFwNdMg6zzdQNhGJIUQzKxWUNUTIBUWDQxRTJQODZNMtDEMjFYNS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gT_Br5A70kiQ90fdVfwYmz8lDeHFwNdMg6zzdQNhGJIUQzKxWUNUTIBUWDQxRTJQODZNMtDEMjFYNS4u)

### If someone in your family becomes ill

As was the case before Christmas, it is essential that you let us know if anyone in your family has tested positive. Also, if anyone in your household develops symptoms, **do not** send your child to school please while you're waiting for the test results. There has been a lot in the press about schools conducting tests but at the moment, we've had no guidance on this and it is purely secondary schools and colleges who have been asked to do so. Teachers are not at this point being tested themselves regularly either in primary schools, although this may be changing in the coming weeks. As soon as I know any more information about the government's intentions regarding testing in primary schools, I'll let you know. Please be assured that nothing would be done without your consent though.

### If a child becomes poorly at school

If a child becomes poorly while in school, we have invested in some digital thermometers (non-touch) to take temperatures. We will only do this if a child appears to be ill – we're not going to take temperatures of every child in school every day. I also need to remind you that if your child has any of the symptoms, we will strongly urge you to book a test. If you do not do this, your child will not be permitted to come back into school until the isolation period of 10 days is completed.

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As always, if you have any worries or concerns, please do contact me via Class Dojo. Despite all of the uncertainty, I know I speak on behalf of all of the staff when I say how much we're looking forward to welcoming the children back to school.

*J Bassindale*

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Executive Head teacher

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