



School Reopening – Monday 8th March 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday, I am now able to provide you with further information regarding the arrangements for the safe and full opening of our school from Monday 8th March 2021.

I fully appreciate how challenging this period has been for everyone concerned and I recognise and acknowledge the amazing effort you have shown, throughout this latest national lockdown, in working with our school staff to support your child's learning. As a staff, we are delighted to welcome all children back into the school community and the much-needed routine of school life.

I am also mindful, however, that a cautious approach to this has to be followed to ensure that the health and safety of our school community remains the number one priority. With this in mind, we will be adhering to recent government advice outlined in [Schools coronavirus \(COVID-19\) operational guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/90222/schools-coronavirus-covid-19-operational-guidance) and following our established risk assessments and procedures for the remainder of the Spring Term. These will be further reviewed following the Easter break, taking into account any further government and Public Health England advice as always.

I would like to take the opportunity to remind you of the following additional measures and prevention controls that must remain in place this term. These additional measures will be reviewed by the government, in partnership with health experts, to decide whether evidence suggests that these measures can be eased ahead of the summer term:

- 1) *Minimise contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend the school.*
- 2) *Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances (we ask parents to wear a facemask when entering the school site).*
- 3) *Ensure everyone is advised to clean his or her hands thoroughly and more often than usual.*
- 4) *Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.*
- 5) *Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often.*
- 6) *Consider how to minimise contact across the school site and maintain social distancing wherever possible.*
- 7) *Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.*
- 8) *Ensure individuals wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary.*
- 9) *Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace (school staff will be tested twice weekly).*

During the Autumn Term, the children were exemplary throughout and were very compliant with new rules and practices put in place. Although we cannot create a totally risk-free environment, we are confident that by adhering to the controls outlined above, we can minimise any risk whilst providing a full educational offer for all of our children.

Class Bubbles:

During the Autumn Term, the school operated class bubbles. We will continue to operate class bubbles from March 8th. Each bubble will have separate designated times and areas for breaks and lunchtimes and will not mix, wherever possible, with any other bubble group. We will limit movement around the school site and aim to keep all class bubbles in their designated learning areas as far as possible. The staggered start and end of school times, implemented in the autumn term, to reduce the gathering of parents and pupils on site at any one time, will continue. Information regarding this can be seen below.

Head Teacher: Mr John Appleby
✉ Hall Walk, Easington, County Durham, SR8 3BP

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Cleaning and Hygiene:

We will continue to provide enhanced cleaning from March 8th as outlined in our school risk assessment and guidance document.

School Equipment/Uniform:

Pupils should wear school uniform on their return to school. All school equipment will continue to be provided, therefore, pupils should not bring pencil cases or other equipment into school. Pupils will only be allowed to bring into school their coat, hat and gloves, a packed lunch, water bottle and a schoolbook bag. To avoid unnecessary changing, pupils should continue to come to school wearing their PE kit on the days that they have PE (please include tracksuit bottoms and school jumper if the weather is cold).

Drop off and Pick up times:

Arriving at school:

From 8th March, children from each class will be asked to arrive at school at different times and through different entrances. **It is of vital importance that these times are adhered to** so that there is no delay in the children commencing their education. Please see below the times of arrival for each class:

Time	Car park entrance	Side gate
8.40-8.45am	Mrs. Appleby's class	Miss. O'Neil's class
8.50-8:55am	Mr. Churchill's class	Miss. Defty's class
9:00 - 9.05am		Ms. Lilley's class

End of the school day

Similarly, to arriving in school, the end of the school day will also be staggered. **It is of vital importance that these times are adhered to so that there is no delay in the children being collected** and leaving the premises unless they are accessing after school provision. Please see below the times of departure for each class.

Time	Car park entrance	Side gate
3.25pm	Mrs. Appleby's class	Miss. O'Neil's class
3.20pm	Mr. Churchill's class	Miss. Defty's class
3.10pm		Ms. Lilley's class

Ms. Lilley's class will exit school through the EYFS side gate (the same gate used to enter on the morning) and exit the school site through the side gate.

Miss. Defty's class will exit school through the main entrance and exit school site through the side gate.

Miss. O'Neil class will exit school through the main entrance and exit school site through the side gate.

Mr. Churchill's class will exit through the side gate next to the MUGA and exit the school site through the main car park gate.

Mrs. Appleby's class will exit through the side gate next to the MUGA and exit the school site through the main car park gate.

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Parents on School Site:

Could parents please ensure that they limit the time spent on the school site and that a facemask is worn when doing so. To safeguard staff and the community, can I also request that parents do not enter the school site to speak with their child's teacher but communicate queries or concerns via telephone or email to the school office.

School Lunches:

There will be staggered lunchtimes operating. Pupils will have allocated lunchtimes. Taylor Shaw, our lunchtime provider, will be offering a lunchtime menu, which is available to view on our school website. A school meal will be provided to those pupils who are entitled to free school meals. If you are providing a packed lunch for your child, please follow the school's advice regarding the appropriate contents for a healthy packed lunch. This information can be found on our school website.

Curriculum Delivery:

We will continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum as far as possible. There will also be a large teaching focus on core mathematical and English skills for the remainder of the Spring Term and the full Summer Term. This is to ensure that any gaps in basic knowledge and understanding are addressed and that pupils are able to confidently move forward with their learning. There will also be increased opportunities for pupils to engage in activities linked to promoting emotional wellbeing and physical health.

Year 2 and Year 6

Children in Year 2 and Year 6 are both working towards the end of a Key Stage. It is therefore vital that these children have additional opportunities to catch up after the prolonged absence to ensure that they are 'Key Stage 2 ready' and 'Key Stage 3 ready'. Therefore, I have decided to continue to offer two additional booster sessions each week from week beginning Monday 15th March for these year groups (these boosters will run for the remainder of the academic year). One of the additional sessions will have an English focus whilst the other additional session will focus on maths. The specific work to be covered within these sessions will be dictated by ongoing Assessment for Learning carried out in class by the class teacher.

The sessions will take place as follows:

Wednesday – 3.30pm-4.30pm – English

Friday – 2.30pm – 3.30pm – Mathematics

Miss. O'Neill will provide both booster sessions for Year 2.

Mrs. Appleby will provide both booster sessions for Year 6.

Whilst attendance at these booster sessions is not a legal requirement, we would **strongly advise** that all children attend in order to maximise the learning that can occur and for the benefit of the children concerned.

Wrap Around Care Provision:

We will be operating our breakfast and afterschool provision from Monday March 8th. Pupils will follow our school hygiene systems and expectations. Mrs Bowden-Stoker will be sending out further information relating to this in the coming days.

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Easington Church of England Primary School



Illness:

In the event of a pupil or adult falling ill with virus like symptoms, they will be isolated immediately and parents will be contacted. School will follow the procedures as set out in our risk assessments for staff, parents, pupils and visitors.

The beginning of 2021 has been undoubtedly incredibly difficult for everyone and I greatly appreciate your patience, understanding and support throughout this period. The success of the COVID vaccine roll out and all pupils returning to school is very positive. However, as the science and data reminds us, we must all be mindful that the pandemic is still with us and that we must do all that we can to minimise the risk of further spread of this virus both inside and outside of our school community .

We will continue to review our risk assessments in light of government updates and, as always, I will keep you updated as to any changes should they occur. The future is certainly beginning to look a lot brighter and by the summer term, we can hopefully all feel as though life is getting back to some kind of normality.

If you have questions or concerns regarding any of the content above, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office and I will happily discuss this with you.

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 8th March.

Kind regards

Mr Appleby

Head Teacher

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