

Earls Barton Primary School

Broad Street
Earls Barton
Northampton
NN6 0ND

Telephone:

01604 810371

Website:

www.earlsbartonprimary.org.uk

Headteacher:

Mr D Ribbins



Self – belief

Honesty

Respect

Excellence

Kindness

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I want to update you regarding the practices and measures that we have in place in light of updated DfE guidance following from the second national lockdown.

Whilst the existing guidance is already being followed and recommended measures are in place here at EBPS, there are some changes and updates I wanted to bring to your attention.

Firstly, the guidance tells us that face coverings are still not recommended for primary school children. It goes on to say that 'staff may wear a face covering when in non-classroom areas like the staffroom' where they may be sharing the space with other staff members. These areas are already set up to maintain social distancing and this is a new and additional measure that primary schools can take.

Many thanks for supporting us with face coverings when you are dropping the children off or collecting them at the end of the school day. A gentle reminder that one parent per child at these times please, this helps us to keep footfall to a minimum and makes maintaining social distancing much easier.

The guidance refers to staggered starts, break times, lunchtimes and ends of the day as being with us for the 'foreseeable future.' A clear indication that the protective measures schools are expected to implement will be in place for some time to come.

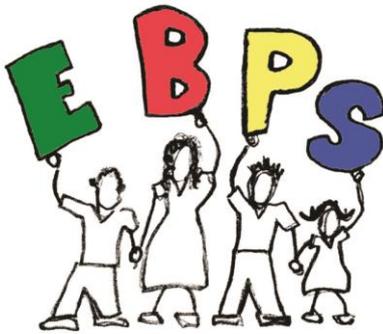
Although we can now send books and other shared resources home with the children I have decided to delay doing so until the spring term when I will look at this again. This is a shared view among many other Head Teachers.

Children and staff who are deemed to be clinically extremely vulnerable may return to school from Thursday but of course it is prudent in these cases to seek specialist medical advice first.

We are reintroducing peripatetic music lessons organised and taught by colleagues at Northampton Music and Performing Arts (NMPAT), they will use robust protective measures and have a thorough and detailed risk assessment in place.

Our own EBPS risk assessment is updated very regularly as per PHE and HSE guidance, it is available via the school web site. It has been submitted to the local authority and is kept under continuous review. A recent visit from the local authority Senior School Improvement Manager focused on the





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risk assessment and the other work we have done to address DfE guidance, and we are seen to be fully compliant.

The DfE have said that statutory tests in primary schools will take place this academic year, most of these take place in the summer term 2021. This will include phonics screen check, Key Stage 1 SAT's, the Multiplication Tables Check for Year 4 children and the Key Stage 2 SAT's. Children in Early Years will take part in a trial baseline assessment later this term.

We have had cases where children have had to isolate because of Track and Trace so remote learning support has been provided and feedback from parents and the children has been very positive. We still have had only one incidence of a positive Covid -19 test in school which is a reflection of the extra steps we are taking to keep everyone safe.

I continue to monitor attendance very closely and we are still recording between 97% and 99% across the school which is really good.

A number of end of term events and treats have been organised for the children, each has been very carefully planned and I'd like to thank staff, parents and the PTA for the help and hard work in putting together what is a very comprehensive programme of events that I know the children richly deserve and will enjoy. More details can be found in the newsletter.

Very best wishes,

Mr D. Ribbins
Headteacher

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w: www.earlsbartonprimary.org.uk

