

Eastbank Primary School

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# Acting Head Teacher

**Angela McBurnie**

June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

**Return to School – 12th August 2020**

It has been a difficult and trying time for everyone over the last few months and I know that I have learnt so much, as I am sure many of you have too. We have been working tirelessly since lockdown was announced and I am sure you will join me in thanking our Eastbank family TEAM for all that they have done during this time. We have worked together, with you all, to ensure our families have been supported as much as possible, and, as always, we are here if you need anything at all.

We know that things are changing all the time and want to reassure you that we have a plan in place for any eventuality. At this point we are working on the assumption that it is a phased return and we will keep you up to date with any decisions and changes that are made. The information below is for the planned Blended Learning timetable.

Please see the text we sent for your child(ren)’s specific dates and times. If you have more than one child in the school please arrive at the latest time and pick up at the latest time. Primary 1’s are being asked to arrive at 10.30am on the first day and come in to the school playground with one adult per child and physical distancing rules will apply.

**Our Red group (Monday/Tuesday) will have their first day induction on Wednesday 12th August and then begin their Blended Learning Timetable on the 17th August.**

**Our Blue group (Thursday/Friday) have their induction day on Thursday 13th August and begin their Blended Learning Timetable on the 14th August.**

You will be asked to drop your child at the Gartocher/Shettleston Road gates, if you have more than one child they will all come through the youngest child’s gate before heading to their school entrance. Please do not wait at the gate as this will cause congestion. When you are collecting your child please wait along the fence as usual if you are P1-P3, physically distanced. Primary 1’s’ will be at the car park end of Gartocher Road. Primary 2’s at the Shettleston Road end of Gartocher Road and Primary 3’s on Shettleston Road. If you have a child in P4-P7 please arrange a pick up point at a safe distance from the school to avoid congestion. Please adhere to physical distancing guidelines and stay safe. If a child is distressed there will be staff in the playground to help.

It would help if you were to carry out these routines and walks to school/pick up points over the summer as this would give the children a sense of what it will be like on the first day. Please bear with us and our school community as we all adjust to this new normal. If you are not able to make your 10 minute arrival slot, please do not come to school until 10am. The child will enter through their designated gate and press the front door buzzer (this will be wiped down regularly).

Breakfast club will be running for children entitled to the Free School Meal entitlement **and** who are in receipt of the school clothing grant. Unfortunately, the service will not be open to paying applications. The link for the contact details is here:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/17885/Clothing-Grants-and-Free-School-Meals>

Playtimes and lunchtimes will also be staggered to allow for physical distancing. Children who are entitled to Free School Meals will be able to use the dinner school; however, we will not be providing paid lunches at this time. Please ensure that you provide your child with a snack and packed lunch if you do not receive Free School Meals. All children in P1-P4 are still entitled to a free school meal. All packed lunches will be eaten in class before children go out to their play zones.

Please make sure you label ALL clothes and items brought to school, not just for identification but also for health and safety. Please also ensure your child brings a jacket EVERY day as outdoor learning will feature heavily in our new normal and the children could be out in all weathers. Children should only bring their jacket, packed lunch (if they are not choosing a school lunch) and a water bottle.

On the first day however, we welcome all children to bring a ‘Happiness Box’ with them that will stay in their tray in school. This should have a trinket or two that will remind them of home and make them feel safe, happy and relaxed. These trinkets should be only one to keep in their tray or in small box that can be kept on their desk or stored in their tray. Some examples may be a small toy or teddy, jewellery, perfume, a note or letter etc.

Due to changes in the number of children on the school roll and the number of teachers within the school it has been necessary to form a composite class at some stages. This will be a small class of 25 children or fewer. The smaller number of children will mean that children will benefit from an increase in teacher interaction. Your child may have been one of those selected to form the composite class. The creation of a composite class will not inhibit the progress of learning for those children in this class.

Please feel free to contact me about any concerns you have. A leaflet explaining the reasons for forming composite classes is on the school website.

You may have heard the term blended learning mentioned when talking about what learning will look like come August. This means that the children will be taking part in face to face learning as well as being tasked with activities to complete at home. The platform we are using for this is Seesaw as most of you will be aware. I understand online access hasn’t been easy for everyone and although children will have face to face teaching for two days, we will still be using Seesaw to submit work so that we do not have items coming back and forth between school and home. New codes will be sent to you for your child’s new class. We will provide jotters and necessary items for the children on their return to school that they can take home to complete their work. If you need anything to make this easier please just ask.

This year we are asking you to download both the Class App and the Family App. Class will be used to upload work and Families will be used to contact your teacher and for online support. We will have staff dedicated to online support throughout the week. If you have more than one child at the school just use the oldest child’s login for the family app and you can ask about any child through this. If this has been a struggle for you, please do let us know and we will do all we can to support you.

Fire safety procedures will be as normal and we will ensure all children have had several practices of their route and their muster points on the first couple of weeks of school. Should your child fall ill during the school day normal procedures would apply, however, our first aiders may be required to wear an apron, gloves and mask. Should anyone display symptoms of COVID we will accompany them to a separate well ventilated room and contact someone to come and collect them as soon as possible. If your child is displaying symptoms at home please do not send them to school under any circumstances. They should isolate for 7 days and the rest of the household should isolate for 14 days.

We will have hand sanitizer at the school entrance, anti-bacterial spray and wipes in the classrooms and children will have a regular hand washing routine in place in class. Please do not send your child to school with hand sanitizer as this can be easily misplaced. If you would like your child to have hand cream they can keep this in their tray for personal use.

We will be looking for our new captains and house captains but due to the situation we will take applications in the new school year.

As part of our approach to Health and Wellbeing we will be using our PATHS curriculum alongside The Compassionate and Connected Classroom. The Compassionate and Connected Classroom is a health and wellbeing resource which supports all children to cope with challenges and adversity and develop their confidence, resilience, compassion and empathy. A full leaflet can be found on the school website.

CLOTHING GRANTS

If you received a grant last year you do **not** need to apply this year, we will pay you automatically in early July. You must however let us know now if your circumstances have changed such as your bank details or address. Visit our website at [www.glasgow.gov.uk/schoolsandlearning](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/schoolsandlearning) to complete an online enquiry form.

If you are a new applicant, forms will be available on our website mid-July, once the automatic payments have been made. To find out more information please visit our website [www.glasgow.gov.uk/schoolsandlearning](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/schoolsandlearning)

If you are looking to purchase school uniform, it can be bought online here [www.border-embroideries.co.uk](http://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/). We would encourage children not to wear ties at this point, especially clip on ties, as these can be easily lost.

Glasgow City Council have created a new page on the external web-site, on the Schools and Learning page, titled ‘Recovery, resilience, re-connection 2020’ for parents. This will be your go to page for information over the summer <https://glasgow.gov.uk/article/25947/Recovery-Resilience-and-Reconnection-2020>. However, there may still be communication from us over text or email. Information may be also be found on the school website.

I hope this gives you as much information as you need at this point in time and as I mentioned at the start, things may change at any point so what I have said here may not be relevant come August.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday and I so look forward to welcoming you all back to school in August regardless of the format.

Best wishes and stay safe!

Kind regards,

Angela McBurnie

Acting Head Teacher

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