



# Easthampstead Park Community School

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Dear Parents/Carers

Following the updated Government advice published to schools on the approach to managing COVID-19 we would like to ensure we are all clear on the advice to be followed.

The latest Government information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

We would like to draw your attention to this guidance in particular, which we ask you to follow:

If you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, do not leave your home for 7 days from when your symptoms started.

- A high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back.
- A new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly.
- Do inform the school that you suspect your child is showing symptoms and that **you intend to follow the guidance on self-isolating** - update the school each day following our absence process.
- It advises you should remain in your home. The guidance states you should not go to work, school, or public areas, and you should not use public transport or taxis. You cannot go for a walk.
- Do not allow other children who are still attending school to visit your home.

### **Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.**

- You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.
- Testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home.
- Read advice about staying at home.
- If symptoms persist beyond seven days or if you get worse you should contact the NHS's dedicated 111 online coronavirus service.

In-School we will do our utmost to ensure these guidelines are followed as far as possible. Should your child develop one of these symptoms during the school day, you will be contacted and asked to collect them, and until the 7 days have expired your child should not return to school. Please self-isolate and follow the absence process as above.

NHS 111 has an online service <https://111.nhs.uk> and the Department for Education also offers a helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687 Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday).

In the event of increased staff absence due to the need for self-isolation, we will review our staffing coverage on a daily basis. In some instances, there may be a need to combine two or more classes together in one of our larger spaces with supervision. We expect the students to support this process and work with staff to ensure learning can continue.

We are in the process of cancelling all trips due to take place in the first half of the summer term. We are also cancelling all sports fixtures for the rest of this term, many of which have already been cancelled by other schools. **We will publish the list of cancelled events shortly but we are cancelling the forthcoming Year 11 parents evening on the 2nd of April, reports will be issued as expected if the school remains open.**



Headteacher: Mrs Liz Cook MA, BA(Hons)

## **School closure**

There has been much discussion over closure of schools and whilst we have no information that indicates this is likely to happen we are taking steps to ensure we are prepared for this eventuality and able to deliver lessons and work via our Google environment and ClassCharts as now. All departments across the school are ensuring that work and resources are planned to enable learning to continue at home in the event of a closure.

We are asking all students to make sure that they have copies of any textbooks that have been issued by the school and that these are taken home daily. Where students are self-isolating we will endeavour to ensure that work is set for them to complete at home if they are well enough to do this. We would ask Destiny students to use the wide range of apps we provide to maintain their revision and knowledge recall in support of their studies.

### **In the event of a school closure our students will be expected to:**

- Take responsibility for their own learning;
- Check into the Google environment and their ClassCharts account school for notifications. Teachers may use email to provide more detailed instructions and feedback and will try and respond to appropriate questions.
- Spend a minimum of 5 hours a day on lesson activities and tasks set by their teachers;
- Complete all tasks on paper or online as required and meet any deadlines given;
- Engage in any other learning activities their teachers have prepared, including extended tasks;
- Read for a minimum of 20 minutes a day;
- Apply the transferrable skills they have developed and be resilient and resourceful;
- Show us what they can achieve!

### **We would be grateful if you could ensure as far as you are able that your son/daughter:**

- Is able to access the Google environment and his/her school ClassCharts account and email committing to routinely checking these;
- Engages in the lessons and learning opportunities provided by his/her teachers;
- Spends 5 hours learning each day and completes all tasks on time;
- Keeps in touch with his/her teachers.

Thinking about the wider interests of the community in which we live we would also like to encourage everybody connected to the school to think about our immediate neighbours and those who are most vulnerable. As social distancing measures are introduced, we would all want to make sure that the elderly and isolated people of the local area who live alone are not forgotten. We are a 'village' after all and need to look after our own

We would like to thank you for all the support you have given us as a school so far and for letting us know promptly of any family circumstances as we manage this challenging and developing situation.

Yours faithfully



**Liz Cook**  
**Headteacher**