



School **Update**

Spring Term 2021- Week 9

The East Anstey School Newsletter

Friday 12th March 2021

School Re-Opening - reminders



Dear families

We are very pleased to report that we have all had a fantastic return to school this week. All of our children are excited to be back and we are very happy to see them all.

Return to school reminders for your information below:.

Pupils, Bubble Groups and Staffing Children are once again attending school in “bubble” groups. These bubbles are based on our class groups. The bubbles will be organised and staffed as follows:

Bubble 2 (Juniors) –Mrs Scandrett with support from Mr Scandrett and Mrs Dennis.

Bubble 1 (Infants) –Mrs Yarney with support from Miss Cooper, Miss E Mair and Miss L Mair

Transport

School transport is running normally and as it did (prior to school closure) during the Autumn Term. Please contact your transport provider directly if you have any queries.

Start and End of Day

Top Gate:

Bus children enter via the top gate (a member of staff will meet them from the bus). The children will then disperse to their bubble entrances when on site.

Lower Gate:

All other children enter via the lower gate which will be open between 8.45 and 9.00am. Staff meet children from bubbles 1 & 2 directly where they will be taken to their classes.

Class 1 - Lower gate, lower path and then up to door to Class 1

Class 2 - Lower gate, round the hall and front door to Class 2

For those dropping off and picking up, could parents please remember the social distancing measures required and be considerate to other families. Bubbles will be separately dismissed at the lower gate from 3.30pm

Please note that parents should not come on site either when dropping off or collecting their child(ren). If you need to speak to the class teacher, please contact the school office in the first instance and we can either pass a message or get the teacher to contact you. We will continue to use Class Dojo for passing day to day information, so this remains an alternative contact method.

If you think your child may have any issues with coming in to school, please don't worry – we are mindful that some may be anxious about coming back in and will do all we can to alleviate any concerns.

Attendance

Government guidance is clear that all children should be attending school regularly, and that is also our expectation. Any child that is unwell should be kept off as you would normally, with a call to the office or dojo to class teacher with the reason. Should they be showing any symptoms of Coronavirus, they must be kept at home, inform the school and testing arranged immediately. If a child becomes ill during the day (whatever the symptoms), we will contact parents to collect immediately. If you do have to have your child or any family member tested either due to symptoms or close contact tracing, please let the school know the result as soon as possible.

Curriculum

We are now teaching our full curriculum where possible. We will be help the children to settle back into school life rapidly and will also assess their learning as they get used to school routines once again. Whilst some activities will be approached slightly differently this term, we will still be organizing our exciting learning opportunities and seasonal events. We will be sending out more detail about the term in our newsletter and communications home.

Uniform

Children should wear uniform where possible, which should be regularly cleaned. We know that some children will have outgrown their uniform and don't want to replace at this end of the year, in which case, appropriate alternative clothing will be acceptable.

PE/Outdoor Learning

We once again have Primary Sports coming in to deliver some of our PE sessions. They have completed their own risk assessment and are fully aware of our site specific restrictions. On PE days, children should come ready dressed in their PE kit. Please note that the PE days will be Wednesdays and Thursdays until further notice.

Outdoor learning will also be on Thursdays and children should bring some suitable warm clothing for this activity.

Lunches

We are pleased to report that school meals are now fully available again. For those preferring to bring their own packed lunch, lunchboxes can be brought onto site, then taken home again for cleaning. Please remember that school meals remain free for those in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, together with anyone who has specifically applied for (and been granted) free school meals via

Devon County Council. The cost of a meal for children in nursery and Years 3 - 6 who don't qualify for free school meals remains at £2.30.

PPE

The children are not required to wear masks in school. Staff will wear masks as appropriate on school site. Other basic PPE is available for cleaning duties etc. Should a child require 1st Aid, then masks and face shields will be worn by staff as required.

Other Precautions and Measures

We continue to try to limit the transfer of items to and from school, although lunch boxes, bags, books etc. are able to be used and can go from home to school. Your class teacher will be in touch regarding reading book arrangements.

The school remains zoned and additional markings are in place to help contact management. Bubbles (both children & staff) will not mix during the school day. There may be times when two bubbles are on the school field, but areas will be zoned and the members will not interact.

School equipment can now be used again to enable us to fully deliver the curriculum. All equipment that is used will be cleaned at the end of the day. Children may be allocated equipment (pencil, pen etc.) that will be kept with them throughout and will not be shared.

There is plenty of hand sanitiser and handwashing soap on site and we will be encouraging handwashing throughout the day. Regular cleaning of surfaces, handles etc. including the toilets will be carried out throughout the day as part of our hygiene regime.

Nursery Opening

Further information updates will now be published as part of (and alongside) our e-newsletter release each Friday. Please contact the school office for specific queries.

Nursery is currently open for all children. If you would like your child/ren to attend a session place, please contact the office for further information or email: eastanstey@exmoorlink.org

Infant News



Dear families

It has been such a wonderful week this week. The children have been amazing. Everybody has been so happy and excited to be back at school and seeing their friends. We have been doing lots of emotional learning work this week, to help with settling back in and all of the children were talking about being happy, excited and feeling really good about being back. Our Nursery children have also come back really well, settling in quickly and showing confidence with both the adults and other children.

Now we are back to normal, I just wanted to remind parents about a few routines. We are going to keep with the weekly book swap for the time being. We ask that you keep children's book bags at home until Friday and then we will exchange reading books and send home 2 or 3 for the following week. The children have a separate book at school which they read daily with an adult.

We are happy for snacks to come in for play times but would ask that they are as healthy as possible; no crisps, chocolate or sugary snacks please. Cheese, crackers, cereal bars or dried fruit are all good. Children receive fruit daily and if they are under 5, some milk. If you would like your older child to have a daily cup of milk there is a charge and you can arrange this with the office.

PE is on a Wednesday and Thursday and children will need to come in ready changed. There is outdoor learning with Mr Scandrett on Thursday and some waterproof coats and old clothes will be essential during the unsettled weather. Children should have a waterproof coat every day. If you have any worries or questions please don't hesitate to message the infant team or call the office. We hope that we will be able to see you all in the next few months.

Awards: Gold award: Whole class - for starting school so brilliantly and settling back into our routines and playing with your friends kindly. Well done we are so proud of all of you!

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards

Mrs Yarney

Junior News



Dear parents,

Firstly, well done to everyone. Parents, children and staff. We have had a tremendous week with all the children returning to school both physically and mentally well. We have spent some time reflecting upon the last few weeks of being at home, and school for some, and how this has impacted upon our thoughts and feelings towards the return to school.

In Literacy, we have been writing acrostic poems around our feelings and have created a wonderful collection. This will be available to view on our school website this weekend and I would recommend that you go and have a read. It is clear to see that the children feel 'happy', 'delighted', 'lucky', 'nervous', 'calm' and 'worried' (to name just a few) to be back. The children chose these feelings words themselves and have worked really hard to show their thoughts about returning.

I am extremely proud of all of them, with 100% attendance and 100% focus and attention too, what more could I ask.

I hope you all have a good rest at the weekend and look forward to the next few weeks whereby we will be continuing to return to our full-curriculum.

With kindest regards,

Mrs Scandrett

Amethyst award

Leon – what an amazing week you have had. You have worked tremendously hard and I especially loved your input in creating our acrostic poems this week. Keep up the good work!

Gold award

Arthur – For a well-thought out acrostic poem to explain your feelings about returning to school. Beautiful work – well done.

Gold Award

Evie B – for a superb return to school. 100% focus at all times with a real zing in your step. It is lovely to have you back Evie. Keep up the good work

Kindest regards,

Mrs Scandrett

Ogden Trust Photographic Competition

After entering our In-School winners (Annabell, Henry and Sofia) to the overall final for the Ogden Trust Photographic competition I am extremely pleased to announce that we achieved a second and third place winner from East Anstey.

Our second-place winner with his fantastic black and white photograph of a slow-motion water droplet is Henry Crews.

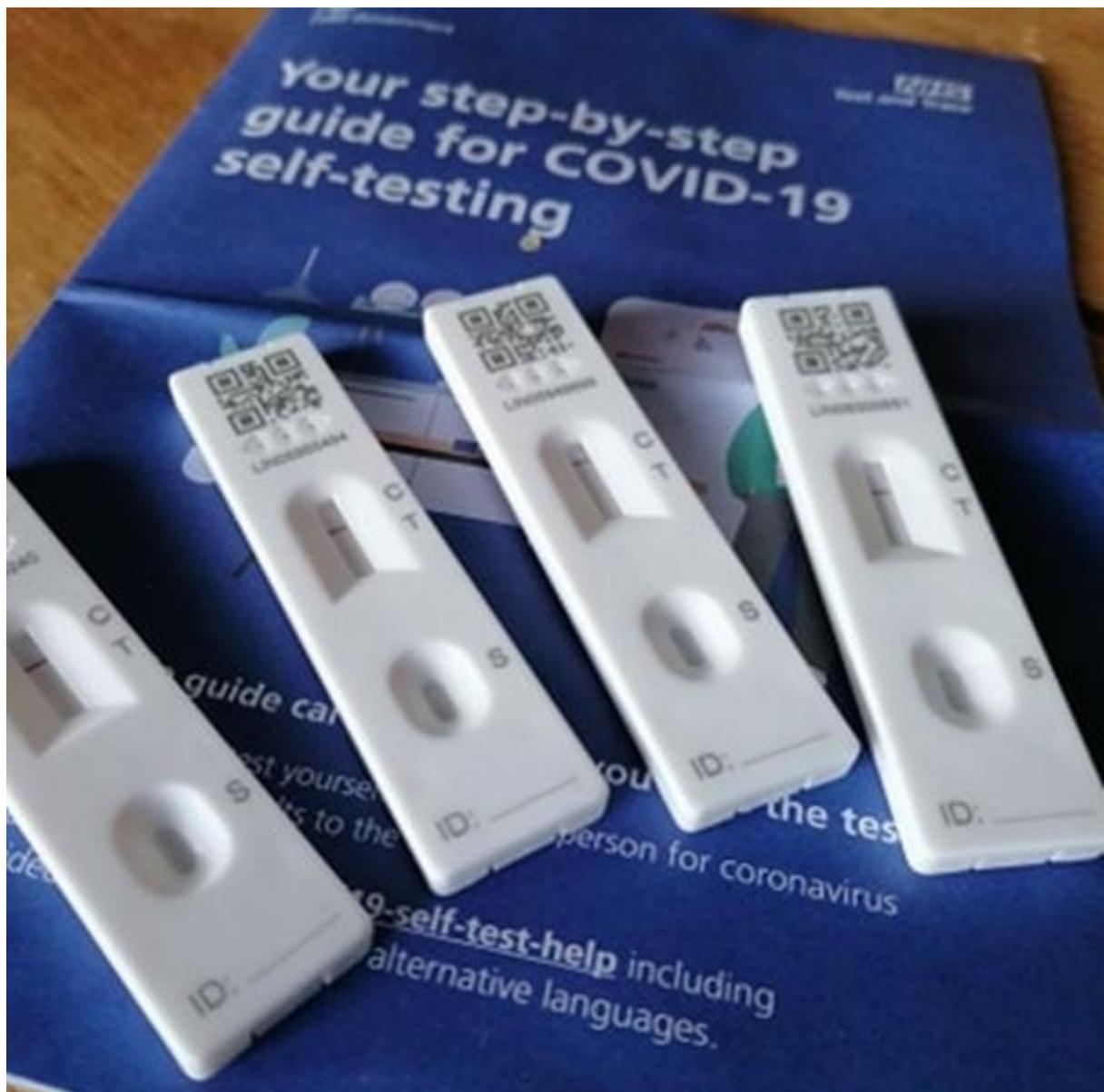


Our third-place winner with the night sky over the Froude stone is Annabell Jones



These children will be awarded with a super science prize at the end of term. Well done to all the children who entered.

Lateral Flow (Rapid) Tests



Parents and support bubbles that have school age children can now order rapid lateral flow home test kits for use at home. These may be collected from Barnstaple or ordered for home delivery if you are unable to travel to collect these. Follow the link below for more information.

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Comic Relief - Dress Down Day



Next Friday will be Comic Relief so as a school we have decided to have a Dress Down (non-uniform) day. We would like to raise as much money as possible, so donations are appreciated. We suggest a £1 donation where possible. The day will also be filled with jokes, fun and laughter.

What's On

With re-opening and the government road map for relaxing lockdown restrictions, we are hopeful that we may be able to return to holding more normal events as the year moves on. Until that is possible, we will continue to hold events remotely via Microsoft TEAMS.

Coming up...

Comic Relief - Dress Down Day - Friday 19th March

Easter Assembly and other events to be announced soon

Last day of Spring Term - Thursday 1st April

Monday 19th April - Non Pupil day

Tuesday 20th April - Summer Term starts - children return

Connect:



Do you have some good news for us or an advert you would like to share? Do you have some community news or would like to promote a project or event? Connect with our newsletter and reach a wide audience. Children, do you have something to share (book reviews, hobbies etc)?

- Email your news or adverts direct news@exmoorlink.org

- Email the office eastanstey@exmoorlink.org

This newsletter is also available as a PDF