



## East Boldon Junior School



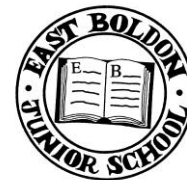
'Be the best that we can be'



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Dear Parents/Carers,

24.02.21

We are absolutely delighted at the thought of having our children and families back with us from March 8<sup>th</sup>. We are so proud of you all for demonstrating our school values of 'being the best that we can be' during this very challenging time.

The reopening of schools is a start towards a return to a more normal life, however, we will still need to be cautious and to have certain measures in place to reduce any possible spread of the virus. I have set out the main actions below:

- If any child has any virus symptoms, do not send the child to school.
- In the event of anyone testing positive, any pupils/staff deemed to have had 'close contact' with the person will be sent home for 10 days of isolation as per government advice. In the event of a class closure – the school will revert to daily online live lessons and activities to support children's learning.
- Parents should drop off and go. Class dojo will continue to be used should you need to speak to your child's class teacher or please call the office for a call back.
- To allow us to have an informed discussion with parents, we have moved our scheduled parents' evening calls to the week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> March - invites will be sent out closer to the time.
- Pupils that are late will need to come to the main office.
- Staggered playtimes and lunchtimes.
- Children will continue to be in corridor bubbles with their peers, class teachers and support staff. However, we will limit this to class bubbles as much as possible to limit any risk of spreading the virus.
- All children and staff will regularly wash their hands and all classrooms have a hand sanitiser station
- Every entrance has a yellow sanitiser reminder and every toilet door has a wash your hands reminder.
- School will continue to promote the catch it, bin it, kill it policy. These signs are in the pupils' noticeboards in each corridor.



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- Pupils will come to school in PE kit on their PE day so there is no need to change.
- The outdoor gym will not be used.
- Bubbles to be taught by a consistent member of staff.
- Assemblies will continue to occur via Zoom on the classroom whiteboards via video conferencing to avoid large gatherings.
- School staff are now testing for the virus twice per week.
- Masks / visors will still be worn by school staff when they wish as most are not yet vaccinated.
- The school has purchased PPE for staff administering any first aid.
- The school staff room will continue to be timetabled so staff do not burst bubbles.
- Masks will still be required for anyone who visits the main reception.
- Additional cleaning will still be required by both staff and cleaners in school.
- Coats will be hung on pupils' chairs in the classroom to widen the space in our corridors.
- School bags will not be needed – if a pupil needs to bring something to school, we suggest using a carrier bag which can be stored in a coat pocket or tray easily.

With the addition of the new gate on the main playground, the staggered start and end times will no longer be necessary, as we are lucky enough to have one gate now for each of the three bubbles. School will revert to its normal timings of 8:55 start and 3:30 finish. We will ring the bell at 8:50 as we open our doors to allow children to start to filter into the building five minutes early as this eases congestion. Then we will ring the bell again at 8:55 to let you know that school has started.

Home learning will continue to be available next week and we encourage all parents to engage as much as possible.

Initially, school will have a focus on wellbeing and a broad, balanced and fun curriculum. Schools will focus on basic skills and diagnosing gaps in children's learning but we want to reassure you that our first priority is the children being healthy and happy. We will undertake assessments when it is appropriate. The curriculum has been remapped to ensure core coverage is still possible and experiences are not lost.



I recognise that parents and carers will have mixed emotions and feelings regarding the return to school. Some of you will be relieved to have your children back in school and more of a balance between home, school and work whilst others may still be anxious about the virus and nervous about a return to school.

I can assure you that the staff team and I will always put our children first and we are here to support all of our families. If you need to talk things through or have any questions please call, email or message via Dojo.

We are looking forward to seeing you all soon,



Tim Shenton

Head Teacher  
East Boldon Junior School



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