

Dear Parents,

Follow up information for September 2020

Following my letter dated Friday 18 August, I would like to provide you with further information about life at school at Egerton. Firstly, I have looked again at the staggered drop off and pick up times, most specifically for siblings.

Drop off and Pick up Times for siblings

It is extremely complex, not least because we have one of the highest number of sibling families we have ever had and many families with three children but also due to the nature of the site and only having two access points. Year 3 is also the one class in the school that has the most siblings. I want to make this as easy as possible for parents and for the children to have the maximum amount of time in school. It does mean that Year 5 and Year 6 have additional time, which will be used well.

Therefore, **parents are to drop off at the earliest time from all of the children and pick up at the latest time - from the specified meeting points.** For example, a family of three children in Reception, Year 2 and Year 4:

Drop off at earliest - 8.40am (Y2 and Rec in the playground), Y4 at the main entrance
Pick up at latest - 3.10pm (all children in the playground)

The staff know which children will be arriving a little earlier and those that will be leaving a little later. I have aimed to have drop off and pick up for all children happen over just 30 minutes and pick up over 20 minutes.

Groups	Drop off time	Pick up time	Arrival Location	Pickup Location
Reception – to begin from 14 September	9:00	15:00	Playground gate; Reception classroom door	Infant Playground; Reception classroom door
Year 1	8:50	15:10	Playground gate; Year 1 classroom door	Infant Playground; Y1 classroom door
Year 2	8:40	15:00	Playground gate; Year 2 classroom door	Infant Playground
Year 3	9:00	15:20	Main entrance; Y3 classroom door	Infant Playground
Year 4	8:50	15:10	Main entrance; Y4 classroom door	Infant Playground
Year 5	8:40	15.10	Main entrance; Y5 classroom door	Main entrance
Year 6	8:30	15:20	Main entrance; Y6 classroom	Main entrance

To enable schools to reopen safely in September, school gates need to be managed to avoid disruption and enable social distancing. Cheshire East Council is working with a range of partners to support schools and parents to achieve this. They are encouraging schools to promote the benefits of children walking, scooting, cycling or, where car travel is necessary, parking in a safe and considerate location away from schools. Our parking scheme with Booths car park is a simple

solution for those parents who need to use their car. **Please do not drive or park down the cul de sac.**

The youngest children can still park their scooters in the Infant playground but we cannot be held responsible for them so this is done at your own risk. I am looking into a long term solution of bike sheds for older children who want to cycle when the protocols allow.

Rebuilding the Curriculum

At Egerton, our approach has always been to prioritise your children's health and emotional wellbeing so that they can feel safe, listened to and valued in a safe a creative environment that nurtures social and emotional wellbeing and learning and where relationships strengthen.

As parents and teachers it has become increasingly clear to us, especially given the challenges of current times, that academic ability in itself is simply not enough to flourish and thrive. We learnt a great deal about ourselves during lockdown as well as our children. They were an inspiration and proved that given the space and time they can be incredibly creative and adept at enjoying challenging themselves. This interestingly is the theoretical basis for the Early Years curriculum. Baking, gardening, science experiments, painting and drawing, treasure hunts, film making and acting are just some examples. What is very interesting is the strength of the creative arts in these times.

At Egerton we believe that to flourish, we need to strike a balance between 'head, heart and hand' so that knowledge, wellbeing, problem solving and creativity can all influence learning. With that in mind we have referred to many interesting pieces of research, most notably John Hattie's findings in New Zealand when children returned to school after some months following an earthquake in 2011. They found children ready and eager to learn and reconnect with their friends and teachers.

There also needs to be a recognition of what has been lost? We can identify 5 losses that involve the following:

Routine: such as the start of the school day, the ritual of packing a bag, travelling to school, arriving at your classroom, the 5 day week.

Structure: such as when and how you learn, when to eat, when to sleep.

Friendship and Social Interaction: such as being together, identity affirmation, a sense of belonging, the everyday use of language.

Opportunity: such as the powerful knowledge that schools can impart, experiences that take children beyond their status quo, skills and networks to access the next phase of education.

Freedom: such as the time and space to be themselves, the sense of control.

Our approach will be based upon a 'recovery and rebuilding curriculum' and upon our return to school in September, with all children attending, under strict health and safety protocols their emotional wellbeing will be our first priority. This will be focused on 4 core areas:

- Health and welfare
- Emotional wellbeing
- Sense of self-worth
- Relationships and working with others



We also have a duty to assess the children's starting points and rebuild the curriculum around this. Our priority is to support your children to reconnect with school life, refresh their learning habits by building on their experiences at home and ensure they are supported to make the very best progress

that they can. This, we believe, can only be achieved through a broad and balanced curriculum and not just focusing on Maths and English exclusively, as some schools advocate. The whole staff team have undergone significant training during lockdown and this will continue on our INSET days and beyond. You can learn more detail by referring to our Strategic School Development Plan on our website.

There is no doubt that the Reception children will be our inspiration as they begin their Egerton journey with no time lost.

Supporting the children before they arrive

Today, the children will have a very special leaflet posted on their class page on the school website from their teacher, full of photographs and details about their daily life. As it is a new academic year Seesaw will not be up and running until new codes for the new classes are issued in the first few days of term. Therefore, for KS1 and KS2 we will be using the class pages of the website. Tapestry will be used for the Reception children.

It would be a good idea to walk to school, as a family before 3 September. I know many have done this during lockdown and during the summer term if they were not at school. This will help the children to start to reconnect with school. Even wearing their uniform is a good idea too, especially for the youngest children.

Communication

- You can contact the school via telephone or the admin email address: admin@egerton.cheshire.sch.uk
- I will be available throughout drop off and pick up times
- Friday newsletter will continue and will be an important source of information.
- School spider messages only used in extreme and immediate circumstances
- Seesaw and Tapestry will continue to share and celebrate the children's learning once the term begins

What if my child is ill?

If your child presents with covid symptoms (even if you suspect this just to be a cold) they must not come to school and we should be informed.

- If they present with symptoms in school they will be sent home to self-isolate for 10 days and their family members for 14 days. All children can be tested, including children under 5. The government has said it will provide home testing kits for schools to give parents. We have not yet received these. Children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit.
- If no tests are supplied book a test <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

Partnership is the key

We will be reviewing all our arrangements throughout each day as well as any further government or local guidance. If there are to be any significant changes to these plans, I will be contacting you immediately. We would really appreciate your patience and understanding on this.

Once the term begins, I will write to you every Friday. At the start of term, I will share our curriculum design and plans going forward. If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to get

in touch via the admin email address. I am really looking forward to seeing you all and your children on Thursday 3 September.

Best wishes

Alison Hooper

Headteacher