

Great Easton C of E (Aided) Primary School  
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Dear Parents and Carers

We have spent a long time reading the surveys from Years R, 1 and 6 about people's feelings regarding the possible wider opening of schools from June 1st. Overwhelmingly, the main worries about school being closed during lockdown is that parents are concerned about their children falling behind.

We will be sending the survey to year 2,3,4 & 5 parents too but are awaiting further information about the full re-opening before sending it out.

We have decided to make some changes to our home learning provision based on this information and the fact that many children will be staying at home for a longer period of time. Before explaining this, we would like to try and reassure you that as teachers we are not concerned in the same way you are about your child's academic progress. All children are missing the same amount of school and so will all be comparable when we fully return. However, you are structuring your days, you will be doing more with your child in a 1-1 situation than we are able to do at school and therefore their learning will be greatly improved. It might not be national curriculum objectives that you have been focusing on, but the children will have been learning. In Scandinavian schools, where they have the highest educational attainment, children do not start school until they are seven and the school day, including a lunch break, for 7-year olds through to university students, is four hours long. We promise that while your child may have forgotten how to produce beautiful handwriting in an exercise book, they will not have stopped learning. It may feel like an uphill struggle, but we are confident you are doing your very best; a great job!

Our new home learning plans:

To ensure that the children in school and those at home are getting the same access to teachers, we have decided to create a daily timetable for each class:

9 - 9.30	Joe Wicks
9.45 - 10.30	Lesson 1
10.30 - 11	break
11 - 12	lesson 2
12 - 1	lunch
1 - 2	lesson 3
2 - 2.30	break
2.30 - 3	Storytime/relaxation

Mrs Delaney and Mrs Lawrence will be providing lessons for their class, Miss Wilson for her class, Miss Miles for anyone in years 3 and 4 and Mr Curtis for anyone in years 5 and 6.

Some of these lessons may be live via Zoom, and some may be pre-recorded and uploaded onto a shared drive for you to access.

You may not want to use them if your home routine is established, you may wish to use some of the lessons offered or you may wish to use everything - the choice is yours and we have no preference. Whatever will work best for you. It might be that you prefer to access one teacher's work for all your children if they are able to cope and it's easier for you to manage. We hope there will be enough options to help make you feel really supported.

The children who will be in school will also access these lessons, but they will be directed by their 'bubble leader' - this means that whether your child is at home or at school, access to their teacher will be the same. The timetable we have devised might not suit everyone, so the pre-recorded lessons will be available for you to access at any time. Anything live will only be available at the time. Teachers will send a timetable of the options for the week. Please take note as to whether they are 'Zoom' lessons as these will be live, or prerecorded lessons as these will be available anytime. It might be that you use the lessons on some days and not others - again, we have no preference, please do whatever works best for you.

The prerecorded lessons will be accessible here from 1<sup>st</sup> June:

[https://greateastonessexsch-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/rcurtis\\_greateaston\\_essex\\_sch\\_uk/EmY7iBcfrSxLvM5S6iU44vMBjtqBhs19qcA4dfNzehjT9w?e=6hLbhv](https://greateastonessexsch-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/rcurtis_greateaston_essex_sch_uk/EmY7iBcfrSxLvM5S6iU44vMBjtqBhs19qcA4dfNzehjT9w?e=6hLbhv)

Once you are on the shared drive linked, you will be able to browse to the appropriate class group for your child, and then the dated week and day folders for each day.

Please note we will not be recording children live, if the session is being recorded, we will make that clear and cameras will be turned off, so that children may be heard but not seen, for safeguarding reasons.

As this is a new thing for us, we will be asking for feedback at the end of the first week back after half term. There may be things that go wrong so you might need to bear with us at times! Please feel free to contact your child's 'online' teacher via Dojo if you have suggestions. We would like this to be useful and user friendly and so will need your help to make it work!

We will continue with Dojo as we have been doing and will still send out the home learning packs too as we know some of you are getting along really well with these. The daily 'Storytime' will cease, as this will be provided separately for your class.

You may wonder why we are only just starting this - the government have provided Oak Academy <https://www.thenational.academy> and there's also lessons on BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> as there are some strong reasons against staff being expected to provide online lessons and schools were advised there was no need to do live or pre-recorded learning. These include safeguarding risks - when we are live on Zoom there does need to be an adult in the same room. This is also a big ask of people to manage their own families in order to provide films and live calls. As a headteacher although staff are expected to work similar hours each day, there has to be some flexibility that it may be late at night or early in the morning (I am sure many of you may have similar working patterns during lockdown). However, the team have met several times this week and agreed that a fresh approach is needed. We are hearing

that the children are becoming more resistant and harder to engage. We understand and this is our way of trying to help in a really practical way.

Mrs Kathryn Mayle, our SenCo, is looking at how LSAs might be able to provide weekly or daily calls to children who need a chat, encouragement with their learning or some mentoring time if they are having a tough time emotionally. If your child would benefit from something like this, please get in touch with Holly or myself, with the member of staff who would be most helpful for your child. We are meeting with the LSA team on Tuesday so can plan in some specific slots.

As always, we are incredibly proud to be part of this school community. If you need us, we are here, please let us know if you need support and we will do everything we can to find a way to help.

Best wishes

*Claire Jackman*

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Headteacher