



Thameside Primary School

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Headteacher: Anna Grice

“Every Child Every Chance Every Day”

Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the strangest summer term most of us have ever experienced, draws to a close I have a lot of people to say thank you to.

Firstly, I'd like to thank the children who have returned to school since we reopened. They came back to a very different environment both inside and out but adapted brilliantly. As more children returned they slotted into the new systems very smoothly. Their behaviour has been truly wonderful. We watched as anxieties transformed into pleasure when they reconnected with their friends. It has reminded us just how important social aspect of school is for children.

For parents/carers who have spent the last few months juggling work, home schooling, and all other aspects of the pandemic, thank you so much for all your support and patience as we have got to grips with setting up systems so children could continue learning at home. Thank you too for putting your faith in us as school reopened, I know there were difficult decisions to make especially when some year groups were eligible to return but their siblings couldn't. Your kind words and messages have meant a lot.

Behind the scenes the school has had wonderful support from the Governors and the Vale Academy Trust throughout lockdown and then the process of school reopening. Thank you!

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the Thameside staff. The Teachers and Teaching assistants who among other things have worked so hard to set up and maintain home learning, make phone calls to keep in touch with their classes and then set up classrooms to manage a whole new way of teaching and learning. The premises staff have worked additional hours to put in place new cleaning expectations to help keep us safe. The office staff have worked so hard to manage reopening while only being able to have limited contact with parents and visitors. The Home School Link workers have continued to provide support for many of our families throughout lockdown. Mrs V Chung has been working tirelessly to keep so many aspects of the school running – we would not have been able to achieve half of what we have done without her incredible calm efficiency and amazing ability to multi-task as she gets bombarded by requests from every corner of the school. This has even included getting up in the early hours of the morning to ensure that FSM vouchers could be ordered. Miss Polley was at school almost constantly throughout lockdown making sure many aspects of teaching and learning continued as well as spending a great deal of time chasing up external agencies who became very hard to get hold of! Her work on the social stories for each returning group has helped children understand what to expect as they have returned to school. Thank you all!!

Today we say goodbye to our Year 6s and we wish them all the best as they move on to their secondary schools. They have missed out on many aspects of transition and end of primary school events. They have accepted this stoically and made the most of the time they have had back at school. Good Luck! We will miss you all.

We also say farewell to some members of staff. Mrs Simmonds leaves us today with the exciting news that she is expecting not one, but two babies. We look forward to meeting her twins when they arrive.

Mr Moore worked at Thameside at the start of his teaching career and it has been lovely have him back working in Year 6 and with the leadership team while Mrs Ottaway was on maternity leave. We wish him all the best as he starts a new headship in the Autumn Term.

Mrs Kapswarah has been with us for a year as the Reception teacher and EYFS lead. She is leaving to take on new challenges outside education. We wish her all the best with her new ventures.

Thank you to you all for all you have done for the children at Thameside. Good bye and good luck!

We will be sending out a letter with our planned arrangements for all children returning to school shortly. These plans have been made based on current Government guidance and may need to be amended if the situation changes.

I would like to wish everyone a peaceful and happy summer break – although it is probably going to be different to the one we had planned. We look forward to seeing all the children back on Thursday 3rd September.

Yours sincerely,

Miss A Grice
Headteacher