



Thameside Primary School

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Headteacher: Anna Grice

“Every Child Every Chance Every Day”

Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The following information outlines the details of the return to school of all children in September. We really appreciate your cooperation in enabling us to get children to and from school, whilst keeping all members of our school community safe. To reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus many arrangements have been put in place. These include: the layout of classrooms; the timetable and how lunchtimes and playtimes operate. We are staggering the start and end times of the day and we have changed the pick-up and drop off points to minimise large groups gathering.

Please note if the Government guidance changes either before children return to school or after term begins, we may have to amend our arrangements.

Please make sure that:

- Only 1 adult accompanies your child(ren) onto the school grounds
- Adults adhere to 2m social distancing guidelines with other people at all times.,
- You follow the signs and markings which will give directions, adults will be outside to assist you. If pre-school age/younger siblings need to accompany you, they must stay with you at all times. They cannot go to speak to friends etc. **Please be aware that parent/carers are not able to go into school with children until further notice.**

Where should my child enter the school and where will I pick them up?

The table below sets out the information of entry and exit points and start and end times. It also details the adults your child(ren) will be working with. The timings are in place to reduce congestion. We would really appreciate it if parents/carers can drop off and pick up children within the allocated times. Children in Years 5&6 may come to school unaccompanied if parents give consent (a separate letter will be sent about this.)

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Room	Nursery	Reception	Yr 1 classroom	Yr 2 classroom	Yr 3 classroom	Yr 4 classroom	Yr 5 classroom	Yr 6 classroom
Adults	Miss Higgins Miss Bowers Miss Foster	Miss Polley (W,Th,F) Mr Medlock (M,Th) Mrs Foote Mrs Eddy	Miss Bourne Miss Formis Mrs Khalid	Mrs Abdollahi (M,Th) Mrs Crawshaw (F) Mrs Chung Mrs Khalid	Mr Larkin Mrs Hardy Mrs McGowan	Miss Cross Miss Aldworth Miss Nurton	Miss Clark Mrs Commander	Mrs Taylor (M-W) Mrs Ottaway (Th,F) Mrs Russell
Start time	8:30-8.40am	8:45-8.55am	between 8.40-8.55am	between 8.40-8.55am	between 8.40-8.55am	between 8.40-8.55am	between 8.40-8.55am	between 8.40-8.55am
Finish time	11.30am/3:00pm	2.45pm	3.00pm	3.00pm	2.45pm	2.45pm	3:15pm	3.15pm
Entrance/ Exit	Nursery entrance	Reception cloakroom door	Blue doors near kitchen entrance	Yellow Hall Door – right hand side	Classroom door	Classroom door	Classroom door	Classroom door
Drop off/ Pick up point	Outside Nursery door	Paved area outside cloak- room door	Grassy area by painted pebbles outside main office	Grassy area by yellow hall doors	Outside classroom door	Outside classroom door	Outside school gates	Outside school gates

Will my child be mixing with other children in the daytime?

In the main children will remain in their teaching groups throughout the day. However, for other parts of the day two year groups will form ‘pods’ (Nursery & Reception; Year 1&2; Year 3&4; Year 5&6). This will give us a bit more flexibility at break and lunchtimes as well as allowing some cross-class teaching e.g. phonics and spelling groups. We have set up designated areas for the children to take their breaks separately from other pods. The benefit of having such large grounds is that we have plenty of space. The field and playground have been divided into 3 zones. Only one pod will be in a zone at any time. The children will remain with their class/pod. Breaktimes and lunchtimes will continue to be staggered so that groups of children can be separated, while making sure they all have plenty of space to play. There may be certain circumstances when larger groups of children may need be together outside e.g. fire drills, wet weather.

Does my child need to come in their uniform?

We would like children to come to school in school uniform. As classroom windows and doors are to be kept open as much as possible even with the warmer weather children should have their sweatshirt/cardigan and a coat with them every day. For the autumn term, children do not need school shoes. Ideally we would like children to wear trainers or similar shoes. This will mean they can take part in PE, outdoor learning and visits to forest school. No sandals or backless shoes please. We would like all children to have wellies so that we can continue to use the school field when the weather is wet.

Please, please, please can parents/carers ensure all clothing/shoes etc are clearly named. This will mean possessions can be returned to children directly. Un-named lost property will need to be quarantined for 72 hours.

To minimize the movement of children within classrooms, we are not going to ask children to change for PE or other outdoor lessons. We will review this before the October half term.

What does my child need to bring to school?

- A named water bottle (containing water only, **no squash/juice please**). It is really important that children bring a water bottle every day in addition to a drink in their packed lunch as **the water fountains are not in use**.
- School jumper and coat, in line with government guidance, the classroom windows and doors will be open as much as possible and children will be spending time outside.
- If the weather is sunny, sun hat and sun cream (if children can apply this themselves), please note adults are not able to apply sun cream. Please apply a high factor sun cream before children come to school in the morning.
- Book bag.
- Pencil case (Years 1-6). As the guidance states that children should not share frequently used resources, we would like children (in Years 1-6) to bring in a pencil case (not too big!) containing only the following: 2-3 pencils, pencil sharpener, glue stick, 2 highlighter pens, a small ruler, a red pen and up to 12 coloured pencils. We ask that the pencil case remains at school during term time.
- Packed lunch unless children are having a school dinner.
- Please do not send children to school with anything that is not essential. No toys please.

What will we do to minimise the spread of infection?

- Excellent hygiene must be encouraged at home. On arrival at school, before and after breaktimes, before eating and before leaving school children will be supervised washing their hands for at least 20 seconds (except after using the toilet when hand washing is unsupervised).
- Teachers will regularly remind children about good respiratory hygiene. Children will be reminded to use the crook of their arm when coughing or sneezing or to use a tissue which will be binned after use.
- As far as possible, children will remain in the same pods with the same adults. Changes may be necessary if members of staff are absent.
- Except in exceptional circumstances, no parents/carers, or visitors will be able to come into the school building.
- Staggered start and end times are in place to reduce the number of people individuals will have contact with.
- A daily cleaning schedule is being operated in accordance with Government guidelines.
- In classrooms frequently used resources will not be shared and lessons will be organized so there is minimum movement around the classroom.
- **If anyone in a family has any symptoms of Coronavirus children should not attend school.** The whole family should self-isolate. Anyone with symptoms can now apply for a test. If the tests are negative, children can return to school as long as they are no longer displaying symptoms. If any member of the family tests positive everyone else in the household will need to self-isolate for 14 days. If a member of staff or a child tests positive for coronavirus it may be necessary for all the other people in their pod to self-isolate for 14 days. Parents will be notified with a phone call if that happens.
- If a child develops any symptoms of coronavirus during the school day parents/carers will be notified and will be asked to come and collect their child promptly from school. The child will be kept in isolation (with a member of staff) until they go home.

What if I need to speak to the teacher or pass a message on?

For anything other than a quick message/query we ask that parents use our email system or phone system to relay messages and avoid waiting to speak to staff at the end and start of the day. We will be holding very limited face to face meetings by appointment only. The main office will be open, but we will be operating under social distancing guidance, only one person may be in the Reception area at any time. Parents/carers should only come into the office if previously arranged.

What do I do about lunch?

Hot school dinners will be available from the start of the Autumn Term. These can be ordered each day. Each morning children will be told what is on the menu that day and will be asked to select whether they want the vegetarian or meat option. Payment for school dinners should be made by Parent Pay.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a daily free school meal under the Universal Free school meals scheme.

Should I send my child in a mask?

Please do not send children to school with masks.

“Public Health England does not recommend the use of face coverings in schools. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.”

How can I prepare my child for school being different when they return?

We are producing social stories with photographs to share with the children who are returning to school. You will receive these by email. Children will be returning to classrooms that may look different to the ones they left. Please talk to your child about the fact that school will look and run differently. It is important that children understand that they will need to stay with their group and can't move about the school and play areas in the same way that they did before lockdown. We will spend lots of time in the first few days establishing routines and explaining why things are different. Please let your child(ren) know they must ask any questions they have or tell an adult if they are worried about anything. We are all still getting used to a very different way of school life.

What if I need child care before or after school?

We are hoping to start breakfast club and after school clubs from the week beginning September 7th. Further information will be sent to parents/carers about these clubs. For the first term we will not be running any other extracurricular clubs.

Do I have to send my child to school?

Government guidance is that all children return to school in September. Parents may be fined if children do not attend school. A separate letter about attendance will follow.

Current Government Guidance

This is the government guidance for parents about the reopening of schools:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

I would like to thank you for your wonderful support for the school during this time. We are looking forward to welcoming back all children and being back together as our Thameside community.

Yours sincerely,

Miss A Grice
Headteacher