



Thornton Primary School
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Friday 10th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Re-opening in September 2020

Following the government's announcement that **all pupils, in all year groups, will return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term**, we are busy preparing. We will, however, need to wait until mid-August to find out the final details from the government about what schools will and will not be allowed to do in terms of organising the school to maximise pupil and staff safety.

This week, Birmingham City Council have released an updated, detailed Risk Assessment that all maintained schools are working to complete. This will ensure schools can identify further safety measures that can be put in place to keep ALL pupils, staff, parents and carers safe when they return to school full time.

We will still have five Year 6 pupil bubbles being taught on site, as well as two Key Worker parents' child care bubbles until the last day of term. This means we will need to reorganise classrooms in order to prepare for the return of ALL pupils at the beginning of the Autumn Term. Governors have therefore agreed, in-line with Sladefield Infant School, to **reopen to ALL pupils on Thursday 3rd September**. This allows staff to fully prepare the school site on Tuesday 1st September and participate in the start of year whole staff training on Wednesday 2nd September.

We anticipate that the government guidelines for fully reopening in September will mean that we will need to change some aspects of the school day to support everyone's safety. A list of changes that will be made follows.



a. CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL DAY

All pupils will be taught in class 'bubbles' of approximately 30 pupils. These 'bubbles' will stay together in their own classroom, and have their own allocated space on the playground for morning playtime and for play at lunchtime.

1. **Drop-off times in the morning and pick-up times in the afternoon will need to be staggered** for each year group in order to minimise the number of people in close proximity with each other on the school grounds. Only one adult will be permitted on site to drop-off or pick-up their child. The two gates on Thornton Road will be labelled so that one is an 'IN' gate and one is an 'OUT' gate. Similarly, the two gates on St. Agatha's Road will be labelled so that one is an 'IN' gate and one is an 'OUT' gate. This will hopefully support the flow of people and stop queues forming at the gates.

Year	Drop-off time	Entrance door	Pick-up time	Exit door
3	9	Year 3 door (St. Agatha's Road playground)	3.15	3EB - external classroom door 3SQ – The Nest external door 3MJ – Year 3 door 3AH – Outside 3AH/3MJ
4	8.50	All on St. Agatha's Road playground: 4AB, 4DR - Year 4 door 4TW, 4SH, 4GJ – Year 4 door	3.20	All on St. Agatha's Road playground: 4TW – Year 5 door 4SH – outside 4SH 4GJ – outside staffroom 4AB – outside 4AB 4DR – Year 4 door
5	8.40	5TR - Year 5 door (St. Agatha's Road playground) All on Treehouse playground: 5ZY, 5NG, 5ST, 5BA – external classroom doors	3.25	5TR - Year 5 door (St. Agatha's Road playground) All on Treehouse playground: 5ZY, 5NG, 5ST, 5BA – external classroom doors
6	8.30	Year 6 external classroom doors	3.30	Year 6 external classroom doors

2. **No visitors, including parents and carers, will be allowed to enter the school building** unless an appointment has been made in advance with the relevant member of staff. Appointments can be made by telephoning the school in the first instance 0121 327 0824.
3. **We will not be able to accommodate large groupings** – assemblies will take place in the classroom for class bubbles, parent workshops will need to be suspended until we are told it is safe to run them.
4. **Breaktimes will be staggered for each year group** and each class bubble will play together in their bubble on their own section of the playground. The class bubble will also play in this same section at

lunchtime too. Pupils from different class bubbles will not be allowed to mix and play with each other in order to maintain social distancing.

5. **Lunchtimes will be staggered for each year group** in order to make use of both dining halls to provide space for pupils having a school meal, whilst pupils who bring sandwiches will eat at their desk in their own classroom. All pupils will spend 30 minutes having their lunch and 30 minutes on the playground. No hot meals will be permitted to be delivered by parents or carers during the school day: all packed lunches must arrive with pupils at the start of the school day.
6. **Breakfast Club will only be utilised by children of working parents and carers** - a place will need to be booked in advance by telephoning the school office 0121 327 0824. It will be chargeable (£1 per day and 50p for siblings) and will have limited places available in order to maintain social distancing.
7. **After School Club will only be utilised by children of working parents and carers** - a place will need to be booked in advance by telephoning the school office 0121 327 0824. It will be chargeable (£2 per day, £1 for siblings) and will have limited places available in order to maintain social distancing.
8. **A one-way system is now used** for the movement of all pupils and staff around the school site, with doors wedged open to ease flow.
9. **School bags will be allowed** to be brought into school, and all children will be provided with their own, named water bottle to keep on their desk in school. These bags will be needed to carry reading books and school planners to and from school each day.
10. **Children will need to wear full school uniform.** All outdoor clothing items will be kept on your child's chair or in your child's school bag (which will also be kept on your child's chair) as lockers will not be used. It is therefore ESSENTIAL that all of your child's items are clearly labelled with their name.
11. **PE uniform will need to be worn to school on the day your child has PE:** they will not be expected to wear their normal uniform once a week on that day but must come in a plain sweatshirt top and tracksuit bottoms, with pumps or trainers during the colder weather.
12. **Current Government guidance clearly states that face masks should not be worn by pupils or staff in the school building,** however, they must be worn on public transport and may be worn on the journey to and from school. We will not be looking after masks on site during the school day, therefore you will need to take your child's mask home when you drop them off if they wear a mask to school.

b. ILLNESSES (Covid-19 related)

If your child, or anyone in your household, has an illness which is Covid-19 related, they will have one or more of the following symptoms:

- a new, continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss or change in their normal sense of taste or smell

If your child, or anyone in your household, does have any of these symptoms, it is ESSENTIAL that:

- A. You DO NOT COME ONTO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS
- B. You MUST arrange for the member of the household showing symptoms to have a test straight away
- C. You MUST inform the school via telephone immediately

Booking a test can be done in 2 ways:

- 1. online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/>
- OR
- 2. by telephone via NHS 119 (for anyone without access to the internet)

Once you have had the results, you MUST inform the school IMMEDIATELY.

If the results are NEGATIVE, and the member of the household feels well and no longer has symptoms, the household can stop self-isolating and your child can come back to school. HOWEVER, WE WILL NEED TO SEE EVIDENCE OF THE NEGATIVE RESULT FOR THE HOUSEHOLD MEMBER WHO WAS TESTED.

If the results are POSITIVE, the person who has been tested MUST continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of the symptoms, and other members of the household should continue to self-isolate for 14 days. If it is a child at the school who tested positive, they can return to school after the self-isolation period if they still have a cough or a loss of taste/smell. However, they MUST NOT return to school if they still have a high temperature, and should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal.

It is REALLY IMPORTANT to inform us of any Covid-19 related symptoms within your household. We have to ensure that all of the children and staff at the school are safe and well. We also need to keep the Health Protection Team updated with details of any cases within the school community.

c. ILLNESSES (NOT Covid-19 related)

If your child has an illness not related to Covid-19, such as a cold or a sore throat, they can still attend school. Our School Nurse, Miss Pegg, needs to be made aware of any illness so that we can best care for your child in school, or contact you if we need to ask you to come and collect your child during the school day.

If your child has an illness that is not Covid-19 related and you are unsure whether you should send them to school, please contact the school Office and ask to speak with Miss Pegg who will inform you of the best course of action to take.

d. GETTING READY FOR SEPTEMBER

In September, we will continue to promote good respiratory hygiene and hand washing hygiene linked to how we can prevent the spread of infection:

- clean hands thoroughly, and more often than usual, for at least 20 seconds
- promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach when sneezing or coughing

It would be really helpful if you can continue to practice these at home before your child comes back to school in September.

As well as this, it is vital that you begin to reestablish the children's routines in readiness for attending school. We know that many of the children have had different bedtimes and morning routines, and so this will need to be practiced frequently with your child, especially towards the end of August!

Creative Homework, which will introduce your child to their first topic in September, is available on the school website. Completing some of the activities from this homework will provide your child with a fun introduction to their new learning: www.thornton.bham.sch.uk select 'Children' then 'Home Learning – Summer 2020' to find your child's year group.

As well as this, the school website has lots of links under the 'Children' tab to safe, educational websites that your child can access, together with the websites they are used to accessing in school with their logins (e.g. my maths, times table rockstars, reading plus, linguascope).

e. INSET (Teacher Training) Days

We have been working closely with Sladefield Infant School to ensure that we co-ordinate the INSET (Teacher Training) Days for both schools. This will hopefully better support our shared parents with planning childcare for their children on those days.

INSET Days for 2020-2021 Academic Year

Tuesday 1st September 2020 (Thornton only)

Monday 4th January 2021

Monday 22nd February 2021

Monday 19th April 2021

Thursday 6th May 2021

f. SAFEGUARDING

We fully recognise how challenging life has been, and continues to be, as we adjust to the new normal of being Covid-19 aware. As a result, we have ensured that there are many safe and reputable websites signposted on our school website to signpost you to any areas of support you or your child may need.

Please take a moment to have a look on the website pages to find links to support for mental health and wellbeing, as well as food bank support and SEND pupil support.

And finally, can I please take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support, co-operation and understanding at this challenging time. I know when I speak on behalf of all the staff and Governors of Thornton Primary School, that we are all extremely grateful that we have you as part of our Thornton Family.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards

Mrs Cathy Grace
Interim Headteacher