



Thornton Primary School
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24th August 2020

Dear parents and carers

Re. Fully reopening to ALL pupils from Thursday 3rd September 2020

A very warm welcome back! We have missed you and can't wait to see you again!

Further to my letter dated Friday 10th July, I wanted to write to you to firstly reassure you that the school is continuing to work incredibly hard to put everything necessary in place to provide your children with a very safe and warm welcome back to school. I cannot quite believe that it has been almost 6 months since the majority of the children were in school learning!

Secondly, we know there is a lot of work to do to help the children catch-up, but I want to assure you that the staff have been extremely busy working hard to plan what and how to teach the children when they return for the new academic year. **It is therefore absolutely vital that you send your child to school every day, unless they are unwell, so that we can fill those gaps in learning as fast as possible.**

Risk assessment

- updated Local Authority Risk Assessment and Action Plan completed by the school
- all approved by the school's Governing Body and sent to Birmingham City Council
- all government and Local Authority guidance continues to be followed to support the safe reopening of school

Class 'bubbles'

ALL children will:

- stay in their class 'bubble' of about 30 children for the whole day
- not be able to mix with children from other bubbles at playtime or lunchtime
- sit in rows facing the front of the classroom
- have their own pencil case containing all the equipment they will need
- have their own school water bottle to keep on their desk
- not gather in any larger groups (e.g. year group assemblies in the school hall will not take place)



Attendance

- ALL pupils return full time on **Thursday 3rd September**
- staggered drop-off and pick-up times

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

- **parents/carers MUST let the school know by 10am on the first day of absence if their child is unable to attend school**
- **a reason for absence MUST be provided**
- 2 pedestrian gates open on St. Agatha's Road, one for entering the site (IN) and one for leaving the site (OUT)
- 2 pedestrian gates open on Thornton Road, one for entering the site (IN) and one for leaving the site (OUT)
- social distancing must be observed
- senior staff and members of the pastoral team will be available on the school gates
- remember to keep a distance of at least 1m if you wish to speak to a member of staff, thank you!

Breakfast Club and After School Club

- only for children of working parents/carers
- places will need to be booked in advance by calling the school office 0121 327 0824
- places are limited in order to maintain safe social distancing
- costs for breakfast club are £1 per child per day (50p for each sibling)
- costs for afterschool club are £2 per child per day (£1 for each sibling)
- payment must be made in advance using Parent Pay

Lunchtimes

- packed lunches brought in with children at the start of the day (no packed lunches can be delivered to school later in the morning)
- packed lunches will be eaten at the desk in the classroom
- school meals will be eaten in a class bubble in a specially designated area of the dining hall
- 30 minutes in the playground
- class 'bubbles' use same specially designated area of the playground as morning play

Hygiene

- whole school site deep cleaned this week
- school has stocked up on hand soap, hand sanitiser, paper towels and cleaning products
- frequent and thorough handwashing throughout the school day: when the children arrive, before playtime, after playtime, before lunchtime, after lunchtime, before going home, and before and after going to the toilet
- continue to promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach to coughs and sneezes, to ensure good respiratory hygiene
- school site will experience routine enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often during the school day
- based on current evidence, Public Health England does not recommend the use of face coverings in primary schools (except in some specific circumstances) because children and staff are mixing in consistent groups, not using them correctly may accidentally increase the risk of transmitting the virus and there may be negative effects on communications and therefore on your child's education. **The government have stated that the guidance on face coverings will be kept under review and school will follow the latest guidance issued.**

Health and medication

- all necessary medication needed in school must be returned, such as inhalers or creams
- medication must be clearly labelled with child's name and class
- if needed, a medication form must be completed to provide the necessary information about how and when the medication can be given in school (contact the school to check about this)
- the School Nurse is available for telephone conversations relating to pupils' health
- the School Nurse can offer guidance or signpost parents and carers to the healthcare support they may need
- please telephone the main school number to request a telephone call back from the School Nurse

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) symptoms

- if your child, or someone in their household is showing symptoms, let the school know immediately but DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL!
- arrange a test straight away if you or your child develops symptoms and inform the school of the results
- you can request a test by visiting: <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or contact NHS 119 via telephone
- if the test is positive, follow guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- if the test is negative, your child may return to school

Behaviour

- revised school behaviour policy is on the school website (under the 'Key Information' tab and then the 'Policies' tab)
- continued high expectations of behaviour
- zero tolerance on anti-social behaviour or behaviour that puts pupils themselves or others at risk of harm

Uniform

- ALL children are expected to wear their school uniform
- PE kit worn to school on days when PE is taught
- uniform to be washed as often as possible
- school is currently not selling any uniform on site
- new uniform can be purchased from Trutex Schoolwear online using their website www.crestedschoolwear.co.uk or by visiting their Erdington store:

Trutex Erdington
71 High Street
Erdington
Birmingham
B23 6SA

- alternatively, you can also order school uniform directly from Tesco using this link: <https://myclothing.com/thornton-primary-school/21301.school>

Contact telephone numbers and email addresses –

Please complete the enclosed Contact Form and return it to school with your child

- provide **at least THREE up-to-date telephone numbers** in case of an emergency
- provide **an email address** so that we can send you information about school that you need straight away – we are introducing a new school-to-home communication system that will help us send you documents more easily using email as well as by messaging you
- telephone the school office to update us as soon as you have a change to the information you have provided

Fake news being spread using social media (WhatsApp)

It has come to my attention that there is a significant amount of fake news being passed around on social media that is extremely upsetting and completely false, and is causing some parents to feel very anxious about sending their child back to school. Let me please reassure you that we are doing absolutely everything we can to ensure we make the school as safe as possible to support us in taking the very best care of your children. We will not be taking any children away from their parents and sending them for Covid-19 testing. Instead, the school has a responsibility to inform you, the parents or carers, immediately if we think your child may be displaying any of the symptoms associated with Covid-19. We would do this by telephoning you straight away and asking you to collect your child: it would then be your responsibility to take your own child to be tested straight away. Whilst waiting for you to arrive, your child would be supervised by a first aider in a well-ventilated room next to the main Reception.

Please look on the school website, or contact the school to speak with us, if you receive any information from sources other than school: it is important to check with us what we are really doing to look after our school community than to believe fake news spread by some damaging and deceptive social media messages.

Contacting the School

- telephone the school on **0121 327 0824** in the first instance
- or email the school using the main school email address, enquiry@thornton.bham.sch.uk
- only visit the school Reception if you absolutely have to, such as to provide medication for your child
- if you do visit Reception, follow the socially distanced one-way system outside the main Reception and approach the window hatch to speak to the Receptionist only when it is clear for you to do so

- **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

Safety is our priority

The government have stated that by grouping children into consistent 'bubbles', staggering start and finish times and implementing rigorous hygiene measures, we can be confident the risk is reduced to allow all children to get back into the classroom. They have provided guidance for parents and carers online [gov.uk/backtoschool](https://www.gov.uk/backtoschool), and produced a guide entitled 'What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term' and this can be accessed by following this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

We are really excited and very much looking forward to welcoming ALL the children back to school on Thursday 3rd September. We hope that this letter has helped you feel reassured that the safety of everyone in our school community is our priority and that you know we will continue to do everything we can to take the very best care of your children whilst they continue their learning journey at Thornton Primary School. Until then, stay safe and remember to continue to observe social distancing to keep everyone safe.

Kind regards



Cathy Grace

Acting Headteacher