

Dear Parents/Carers,

Partial Re-opening of Thornton Primary School

Year 6 – Monday 8th June 2020

This leaflet is designed to give you an overview of the re-opening of the school for Year 6. It is important that you read this carefully as it has important information that must be adhered to.

Firstly, we have been instructed by our governing body that in order for the home learning of children not attending to be completed and overseen, the school will be closed on Friday afternoons to Year 6 pupils. **School will be open from Monday to Thursday and Friday morning only until 12pm.**

Childcare provision will continue for children of Key Workers (as defined by the government list), but will take place at Thornton Primary School from Monday 1st June NOT Sladefield Infant School. Please contact us to discuss your requirements using enquiry@thornton.bham.sch.uk. Provision is from 8.45am until 3.30pm every day Monday to Thursday and on Fridays from 8.45am until 12.30pm.

In addition to this, due to the staffing of the small groups (which we are calling 'bubbles') and use of different areas of the school site, **anyone who has not already requested a Year 6 place and wanting to access the provision for Year 6 OR a key worker childcare place, will need to give the school AT LEAST 48 hours to respond with the start date.** We appreciate this is inconvenient, however, staffing of the dual provision and having available space is very complex and requires detailed planning.

Opening times will need to be staggered and different entrances used for each year group. Therefore, **each 'bubble group' will receive a letter with their drop-off and pick-up times and details of which entrance to use next week.** It is essential these are read carefully as this will form part of the risk assessment of social distancing on site.

School has already identified vulnerable pupils who need to attend school and this provision will continue.

Thank you for your continued support, and just a reminder of the start dates:

Year 6 – Monday 8th June 2020.

Yours Faithfully

Governors and Senior Leadership Team of Thornton Primary School

How hygiene will be promoted:

- Children use hand sanitiser on entry to the school and will be directed to wash their hands once they have entered the classroom
- Hand hygiene will be promoted regularly throughout the day, alongside after using tissues, before eating and after outside play
- Children will have individual packs of equipment provided by school and located at their desk and so will not share
- Equipment in the playgrounds will be limited and on a regular cleaning cycle
- Cleaning will be increased throughout the day to include touch points, toilets and classrooms
- Closure on Friday afternoons will be used for further deep cleans of all areas
- Rooms will be well ventilated with windows and doors open where possible

Social distancing:

- 2m will be the aim, although between pupils, this cannot be guaranteed at all times
- Pupils will stay in small numbers as classroom 'bubbles' - between 8 and 10
- Bubbles will be isolated from each other as far as possible - interaction will only be with the children in their 'bubble'
- Members of staff will stay with their 'bubble' as far as possible, exceptions to this being job shares and where a staff member is unable to attend for emergency reasons/illness. As each class is split into smaller groups, staff from other year groups will take groups
- 'Bubbles' cannot be adapted and will have to remain the same, this is part of the Government guidance
- 'Bubbles' will have the same designated space on the playground and 'bubbles cannot mix
- Around school, 2m strips are in place to remind the children to keep 2m between themselves
- Movement around school via a one-way system will be limited and only necessary movement will take place as corridors are the hardest area to social distance
- To create space, classrooms will only have the furniture needed and extra furniture will be stored away. All extra tables will be removed and working spaces marked so that children are clear about their working areas

How will children enter / exit:

- Children will arrive with just one parent/guardian to reduce numbers on site
- Parents will arrive via Thornton Road gates and will leave via St Agatha's Road gates, with pupils exiting through classroom doors onto the playground
- Families must stay 2m away from other families, there are marks to help this.
- Staff will be there to meet children at the specified door and children must come in unaccompanied
- Children will be dismissed one by one from this same point to meet their parent/carer. They are then responsible for the social distancing for them and the child as they leave the site.
- Each 'bubble' group will have specific entry and exit times - these need to be strictly adhered to as they will spread out the numbers on site.

Break times / Lunchtimes:

- Break times for 'bubbles' will be staggered and will take place in marked zones of the playground to avoid 'bubbles' mixing
- The Dining Hall will not be used. School will only cater for sandwich meals and lunches will be eaten in the 'bubble's' classroom
- Lunch times will be staggered in the same marked zones as break times. Any equipment used will be cleaned after use. Climbing equipment will not be able to be used
- The school catering will provide sandwich lunches for ALL pupils on site
- 'Bubbles' will be allocated the same lunchtime supervisor throughout the week

Medical Needs:

- If your child displays COVID 19 symptoms (cough, temperature, loss of taste and smell), **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL** - stay at home and contact NHS 111 for advice
- If your child displays COVID 19 symptoms (cough, temperature, loss of taste and smell) in school, you will be contacted immediately to collect your child
- There is a designated room where they will wait to be collected. They will be supervised from a distance and any staff member in closer proximity will wear PPE
- Collection of unwell children **MUST** be prompt
- We recommend anyone with symptoms is tested as a matter of urgency as a positive test will impact on the rest of the 'bubble', which is the reason for the limited contact between each group
- First aid will be administered as usual if there is an accident. Staff will encourage older children to complete as much as they can independently with guidance or help wearing gloves and masks
- All other protocols of reporting and monitoring any medical concerns will remain unchanged. If further treatment is advised, or a child is distressed/upset, you will be called to collect your child immediately

Uniform:

- Children will need to have clothes washed after leaving school each day to ensure there is less risk of cross contamination to the home environment
- You are welcome to wear school uniform; however, we know that children have grown since March and therefore with shops closed, this may cause issues
- You may prefer to dress your child in clothes that can easily be washed and dried and so therefore uniform will be relaxed over this period
- Staff dress code has been relaxed for the same reasons – many will be wearing that are easier to wash on a hot wash and dry for hygiene reasons

Attendance:

- Unless there is an emergency, children should stay for the whole day, arriving and leaving at the designated times
- If your child cannot attend, please phone the school on the first day of absence
- This is especially important if they are displaying symptoms of COVID – 19
- A register will be taken twice each day, in line with health and safety and the legal obligation of schools to record registration. Unlike previously, however, this data will not be used to monitor individual attendance until further notice
- Your child must NOT attend school if they or anyone at home displays signs of Covid-19
- It is your choice if you send your child to school during this pandemic, you will not be fined if you choose not to send them to school

Travel to school:

- In line with Government guidance, the use of public transport is discouraged. Walking to school is promoted as an alternative and reasonable to do so
- Please be mindful of social distancing as you walk your child to school
- Current advice recommends where public transport is used, a mask is worn as social distancing is unlikely to be possible
- Where public transport has been used, hand washing and gel is recommended to be used as soon as your child enters the school gates

Contacting the school:

- There will be no access for parents into the main reception office. If you need to speak to the reception staff please telephone the school in the first instance and a member of the admin team will be available to answer your query

Finally:

Year 6 are NOT completing SATs this year.

We are aware that the school will be very different for our pupils. As always, the children feeling happy, safe and secure is at the heart of our practice as we aim to meet the guidance to ensure safety. We aim to create an environment of vigilance but not fear. The inset days for staff prior to opening will be used to ensure they are aware of the health and safety around the re-opening and also to focus on supporting the wellbeing of our pupils, who will be returning to a school that will look and feel very different.

If you have any specific questions, please do call the school on 0121 327 0824 or email enquiry@thornton.bham.sch.uk