



Thornton Primary School
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1st March 2021

Dear parents and carers

Re. Fully reopening to ALL pupils from Monday 8th March 2021

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

Further to my recent text message and newsletter updates, please be reassured 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. On behalf of everyone in the #thorntonfamily, I want to say how much we have missed having everyone in school – it's not the same seeing everyone virtually!

Secondly, we know there is a lot of work to do to help the children with their recovery, both emotionally and academically (catch-up), don't worry! The staff have been extremely busy working hard to plan what and how to teach the children when they return to school. **It is therefore absolutely vital that you send your child to school every day, unless they are unwell, so that we can support their recovery (fill those gaps in learning) as fast as possible.**

Risk assessment

- an updated Local Authority Risk Assessment and Action Plan have been completed by the school
- these are approved by the school's Governing Body and sent to Birmingham City Council
- all government and Local Authority guidance is followed to support the safe reopening of school

Class 'bubbles'

As before the third national lockdown, ALL children will continue to

- 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 **Monday 8th March 2021**
- As before the third national lockdown, staggered drop-off and pick-up times will operate:

Year	Drop-off time	Entrance door	Pick-up time	Exit door
3	9.00	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 9.30am on the first day of absence if their child is unable to attend school**
- **a reason for absence MUST be provided**
- only one adult to drop-off and pick-up – children can be dropped at the school gates each morning
- younger siblings must remain close to their supervising adult whilst on site
- 3 pedestrian gates open on St. Agatha's Road, two 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, please **DO NOT GATHER IN GROUPS** on the school site
- 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!
- **ALL ADULTS MUST WEAR A FACE COVERING ON THE SCHOOL SITE (unless you are medically exempt)**

Breakfast Club and After School Club

- limited places 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
- it is still not recommended that primary aged children wear face coverings
- in Primary Schools, the DfE recommends that face coverings should be worn by staff and adult visitors in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas)

Health and medication

- **all necessary medication needed in school must be returned to school on the first day back**, 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
- currently, there will not be Lateral Flow Testing of primary aged children in school or at home for Covid-19
- all staff are offered Lateral Flow Tests, twice weekly, to do at home to see if they are asymptomatic

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) symptoms

- if your child, or someone in their household is showing symptoms (high temperature, persistent cough, loss/change of taste/smell), 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



- **you must inform school IMMEDIATELY if anyone in your household tests positive for Covid-19**
- if your child shows symptoms in school (high temperature, persistent cough, loss/change of taste/smell), they will be sent home immediately and parents/carers will be advised to follow PHE guidance
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>



Pastoral Support for children anxious about returning

- some children are briefly visiting school this week to see their teacher – this can be arranged by telephoning the school if you feel this would benefit your child
- all staff will be involved in fully supporting the children when they return to school to make sure they feel happy and safe. Miss Devi, the Pastoral Manager, and Mr McDaniel, the Learning Mentor, will be providing support on a one-to-one basis for any children that need this level of support and will share their work with parents and carers to fully support the children

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 following our approach of being 'Ready, Respectful, Safe'
- 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



- 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 ensure you update us if you have changed your **email address** so that we can send you information about school that you need straight away
- please ensure you update us immediately if you, or any of the emergency contacts, have changed your **telephone number**

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, and produced a guide entitled 'What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges' 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>

Bubble closure and the use of Remote learning

If we have a confirmed positive case of Covid-19, we will take swift action:

- close the bubble immediately
- contact Public Health England to report the case and Birmingham's Contact Tracing Team
- ask all close contacts to self-isolate for 10 days
- provide all children with a DfE loaned laptop to continue at home with Remote Learning (using daily Google Classroom learning activities with their teaching staff)
- provide all children with a paper pack of the learning activities in case of technical failure
- provide all Free School Meal children with a weekly food bag

We are really excited and very much looking forward to welcoming ALL the children back to school on Monday 8th March. 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathy Grace'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Cathy Grace

Acting Headteacher