

Thompson Primary School

March 2021 opening



Thompson
Primary School

This document has been put together following guidance shared from the government.

It aims to cover everything you need to know about starting school in March 2021.

There is a lot of information included in this document, please take time to read it and understand our plans. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Which children will be coming back?

On February 22nd the government announced that all children will be expected to return to school on March 8th. We understand that some children, Parents or carers may be clinically vulnerable or living in a household with someone who is and in this situation it is important to contact Mrs Heath to discuss the options.

How children will be returning to Thompson Primary School?

All children will be expected to return to school on March 8th. We will have separate drop off/ Pickups and these will be at different locations around the school grounds. This will continue as it did from September. During the day children will be in class bubbles with staggered break and lunch.

What if I'm not comfortable sending my child back to school?

We understand that every family's circumstances are different and that every family will want the best for their children. We will do all that we can during the day to keep your children safe. However, the Government's advice is quite clear and there is an expectation that all children will be in school from 8th March and we will be required to fine parents if children are absent. Further details are in our attendance policy, which is on the school's website. Fines will be on a case by case basis and if we feel that there are legitimate reasons for not returning to school a fine may not be imposed at the headteacher's discretion.

How will we maintain social distancing in school?

We will follow this where it is possible in school, however with all children returning to classes we will not be able to enforce this within the classroom environment. Also the government guidance states that social distancing does not have to take place within primary classrooms.

We will be taking the following measures set out in the government guidance:

- Avoiding contact with anyone who has symptoms – **no one with symptoms should attend school for any reason**
- Frequent hand washing/hand sanitising and good hygiene practices (catch it, bin it, kill it)
- Regular cleaning of settings
- Minimising contact and mixing between groups.
- Children to be seated next to each other rather than face to face, where the classroom setting allows for this.

In Reception, we will remind children how to wash their hands properly and do this regularly throughout the day. Toys, books and classroom resources will be cleaned regularly or put into quarantine for 48 hours. The classroom surfaces are thoroughly cleaned daily. We will take out the rugs and soft furnishings. Children will have their own stationery packs and water bottles will be kept with children on their desks (**please ensure only water in the classroom bottles please**). Some equipment will need to be shared within the classroom. This will be with the person they are seated with. The children will be washing hands and sanitising regularly. All shared resources will be cleaned thoroughly or quarantined where required. Lessons will be planned for independent and partner based work rather than groups of children working together.

How will we start and end the day?

As children come into and leave school it will be important to try and avoid all unnecessary group gatherings. To reduce this, we will be using different drop off and collection points for each class as explained below. We will be asking that **you continue to use the one-way system** and would prefer that instead of parking, dropping your child off from the car in front of the gate they will be using. Please be mindful of other parents that will need to get by to drop off at a different gate. **Please park over as much as possible to allow cars to pass by. (Please do not park in areas that are used for passing)** We ask that you do not arrive early as this is causing congestion. Your children will not come out any sooner just because you are parked outside half an hour earlier! If you are walking, then just be aware of others present before approaching the gate. A member of staff will welcome the children at the gate and direct them to class.

Wrens Reception

Drop off and collection the main green gate playground entrance

Drop off between 8:35am – 8:45am Collection 2:50pm

Robins Year 1/2

Drop off and collection the main green gate playground entrance

Drop off between 8:35am – 8:45am Collection 3pm

Skylarks Year 3/4

Drop off and collection the rear entrance, large wooden gate

Drop off between 8:35am – 8:45am Collection 3pm

Barn Owls Year 5/6

Drop off and collection the top field entrance, small wooden gate

Drop off between 8:35am – 8:45am Collection 3pm

Children will be accompanied to the gates and will be safely reunited with parents here. As in the morning if arriving by car please drive to the gate and we will safely hand over children this way. **It is important that you are on time for drop off and collection. We also ask for your patience whilst dropping/collecting children. Please ensure you arrive between the times above, if you are going to be late please notify school.**

What will the children be taught?

We are aware that some children may have developed some gaps in their learning and that others may have made some good progress. The first week or two will be assessing where the children currently are in their learning journey. Although some things may have to be done slightly differently we will be continuing with our broad and balanced curriculum.

What provision will be made for the children who are at home?

Unless the school is put into a lockdown there are no plans to supply regular home schooling work to those who decide not to send their children to school. Homework will be provided as the class teacher thinks appropriate. If you are at home due to vulnerability we will discuss home schooling needs on a case by case basis. If you are home due to Covid-19 and are well enough to work or self-isolating, work will be provided.

Will the option of a phased return to school be available?

We would ask that all children return to school on March 8th, however also understand different issues that people may have. If you have any concerns, I ask that you please get in touch. A phased return may be possible and something that can be discussed where necessary.

How will break time and lunchtimes be managed?

In order to try and keep the classes as separate as possible, we will stagger break and lunchtimes. In order to maintain bubbles, children will be eating their lunches in their classrooms and the playground/field will be split into designated areas.

Will we be able to order school dinners as usual?

School dinners will be available, for the first week back these will be packed lunches or hot school meals. You can order these in the usual way via Schoolmoney, simply select option required. Children can also bring a packed lunch from home. **Please ensure that you book lunches in advance as these can no longer be booked on the day.** If you do forget to book lunches a packed lunch will need to be provided from home.

What will my child need to bring to school?

Children will need to bring a book bag or small rucksack into school and if they are having a home packed lunch this too. We ask that children do not bring in any unnecessary bulky bags. **1 bag only** Children do not need pencil cases or stationery as this is all provided for them at school.

Does my child need to bring in a PE kit?

What we will be doing is continuing as from September by asking children to come to school in their PE kits on the days that they have PE. It is important that kit is sensible for the weather conditions. We ask that children wear either navy/black shorts with a white or purple T shirt available from birds. For colder weather a black/navy track suit.

Designer track suits and football strips are not to be worn for PE. Also a pair of trainers.

Monday – Robins

Tuesday – Wrens

Wednesday – Skylarks

Thursday – Barn owls.

Please ensure that all PE kit and school uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name. We had so much lost property last year. All of this can be simply reduced with a name.

Is it ok for my child to go to wraparound care before and after school?

We have decided that from 8th March until the Easter holiday we will not be providing wrap around care. We will reassess this closer to the Easter holiday and will let you know when this will be starting. The current aim is Monday 12th April 2021

Breakfast club – This commences from 8am in the morning. The doors will not be open before this time so please do not turn up early. Drop off will be the back entrance with the big wooden gate into the hall doors. The cost for this is £2 per child, per session. **(Due to commence 12th April 2021)**

After School club – This commences from 3pm until 5pm. Children that are staying until 4pm will be brought to the green playground gate for collection. We ask that you maintain social distancing during this time. Unless you have informed us of an earlier collection, children will not be at the gate until 4pm. If your child is staying with us until 5pm the above applies. We will not be at the gate until 5pm unless an earlier collection has been previously arranged. The cost for this is £3 per hour and £2.50 an hour if siblings attend. Friday is £3 for the whole 2 hour session per child. **(Due to commence 12th April 2021)**

How can I get a message to school?

So that we can try to limit the amount of people we come into contact with, parents will not be able to enter the school premises unless prearranged or an emergency. If you have a message you need to get to school, please either telephone, email or use Dojo. Please **do not** come to the school office unless this has been arranged already. If a meeting is required it is highly likely that this will take place using an online platform.

How will school communicate with home?

Class dojo will be our main method of communication with our families. We will try and reduce the amount of paper sent home. We will also send some communication over email (**please ensure we have an up to date email**) and post information onto the website. **It is really important that you check class dojo regularly for any messages**, class and whole school communication. It would be really sad for parents to miss any important updates.

What will happen if my child develops symptoms at school?

If your child develops symptoms, however mild, we will contact you and ask you to pick your child up from school. They should then isolate for ten days, with everyone else in their household. All children who are attending an education setting are able to access a test. If they test negative, they can return to school.

Will my child need to wear PPE?

Wearing a face covering or face mask in school is not required. However, we are aware Government advice on this continues to be reviewed and we will continue to watch this closely and we will let you know if it becomes necessary to change this.

Will staff have to wear PPE?

Staff will be wearing face masks around school in shared areas and some staff will be wearing visors in the classroom. The only other occasion when PPE will be worn is if a member of staff is waiting with a sick child and cannot maintain a distance of 2m.

What will a typical school day look like?

All four groups are to remain separate from each other and will not mix during the school day. They are to remain in their 'bubble' as much as they possibly can do.

The intention within each 'bubble' is that the school experience will be as normal as possible with the exceptions of increased hand washing and lack of contact with others within the school.

The school day will unavoidably feel and look a little different but staff will endeavour to continue to make Thompson Primary School a warm and welcoming place to learn and have fun. The staffing for each group is as follows:

Reception Wrens – Mrs May and Mrs Freeman

Year 1/2 Robins – Miss Moore, Mr Sayer and Mrs Steed

Year 3/4 Skylarks – Mrs Powell and Mrs Ashman

Year 5/6 Barn Owls – Miss Woodison and Mrs Howson

Language lessons – Mrs Howson (online sessions for now)

PE lessons – Mr Sayer

Breakfast club – Mrs Codling

After school club – Mrs Codling, Mrs Ashman and Mrs Bailey-Tufts

What can I do to try and help my child get ready for returning to school?

Over the last term a lot has changed and getting up, putting school uniform on and getting into school was quite a while ago.

If you have found that your routine has slipped, then next week, begin to get it back slowly by trying to make bedtime and getting up time a little bit earlier every night/morning. You could even begin the day with a walk and pretend it's your journey to school.

Talk to your child about anything they are worried about. Children might be looking forward to seeing their friends again, but there will naturally be some worries and anxieties as well. It's important that we reassure families that school will be doing their best to make sure that everyone will be safe.

If you have any questions or need some clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs Heath