

Thompson Primary School

September opening



Thompson
Primary School

This document has been put together following guidance shared from the government on 2nd July 2020.

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

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 July 2nd the government announced that all children will be expected to return to school in September. 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 in September. We will have staggered drop off and pick up times and these will be at different locations around the school grounds. We understand for some families this may pose some problems but we ask for your patience during this time. It is a learning curve for us all and we will adapt where needed. 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 September 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). 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. If you feel it is necessary to park we ask that you still drop off swiftly to avoid congestion at these areas. (**We understand for the first week or so, that reception parents will want to park and bring their children to the gate**) 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.

Timetable for return

Wrens Reception

Drop off and collection the main green gate playground entrance

Week 1 – Drop off between 8:45am – 9am Collection - 12pm before lunchtime

Week 2 - Drop off between 8:45am – 9am Collection – 1pm children stay in school for lunch

Week 3 – Drop off between 8:45am – 9am Collection – Children can stay until 2:50pm from this week unless you feel that a 1pm collection would be more suitable for an additional week. Please speak to Mrs May the class teacher to arrange this.

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. If parking is necessary we ask you maintain distance at the gates please. **It is important that you are on time for drop off and collection. We also ask for your patience whilst dropping/collecting children especially for the first few days. Please ensure you arrive between the times above, if you are going to be late please notify school. You will have to wait until after 9am to drop off by the green playground gates if you miss your allocated time.**

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.

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

We would ask that all children return to school in September, 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 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, **book bags only.** Children do not need pencil cases or stationery as this is all provided for them at school. **(The Friends of Thompson Primary School will provide all new reception children with a book bag)**

Does my child need to bring in a PE kit?

What we will be doing from September is 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. PE for at least the first term will be outside so it is important children also have a coat for bad weather. PE will commence from 14th September 2020.

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?

The Government advice has confirmed that wraparound care can be provided in school. The Government accepts that this will entail a limited mixing of children across class 'bubbles', but this is safe. Therefore, we will be offering wrap around care in school again. This will not commence until Monday 14th September to give children and staff a week to settle into new school life. There will also be a maximum of 15 children that can attend due to staffing and space. If you can book these sessions in advance it would be very helpful. **Children will also now not be able to be added on the day. We also ask that you do not turn up at breakfast club without booking as I am afraid we will not be able to accept children who have not booked.** Bookings to be made via schoolmoney.

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.

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.

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.

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 seven days, with everyone else in their household isolating for fourteen days. 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?

No, the majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work (for example to deal with first aid incidents), even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. 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

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 few months a lot has changed and getting up, putting school uniform on and getting into school seems like a distant memory.

If you have found that your routine has slipped, then towards the end of the summer holiday, 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.

We will be putting together a questionnaire that will allow us to see you and your child's worries for September so we can reduce these as much as possible.

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