



Tuesday 1st September 2020

Welcome back Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family have had a restful summer break. We are eagerly looking forward to seeing all our wonderful children at the start of the new school year. School re-opens to ALL children on Monday 7th September 2020, apart from Reception and Nursery who have allocated start dates.

We have worked very hard to ensure the school is safe for the children and staff and all decisions regarding re-opening Thornhill have been made in line with the government guidance.

We have reviewed, updated and submitted a revised Risk Assessment that has been approved by the Governors and the Local Authority. Our risk assessment sets out how we have planned to mitigate risks throughout the school. The risk assessment can be found [here](#) on our school website.

Please note, all children must return to school in September, those who do not return will receive fines issued by the Local Authority.

I have attached a summary parent guide to support your conversations with your child/ren as you prepare them for school. Many children were able to attend school during the lockdown period, and since June, they are aware of the changes the school has had to make. Here are some of the steps we have taken to ensure the school is safe:

- **Increased Hygiene Measures:** Handwashing is essential to maintain the health and safety of everyone. We have installed handwashing troughs in the playground, and over the summer I have installed hot water systems in all classrooms. Children will wash their hands on entry to the school and throughout the day.
- **Frequently touched areas (doors handles, taps, desks, etc.)** will be cleaned throughout the day.
- **Ventilation:** Windows will be kept open to ensure maximum ventilation in all classrooms and group rooms.
- **Improved respiratory control:** The Government protocol of 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it,' will be followed rigorously and hands washed after any coughs and sneezes. Each class will be allocated a supply of tissues to ensure children can follow public health guidance '**Catch it, Bin it, Kill It**'.
- **Track and Trace:** Parents will receive our COVID-19 Parent School Agreement. All parents must inform the school immediately of anyone in their household who has symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. If your child develops symptom whilst at school, they will be placed in isolation, supervised by a member of staff in full PPE. Parents, **you must come and collect your child immediately, and you must take a test.** You must let the school know the results of the test as soon as you receive them. If your child tests positive, they will need to be at home for 10 days.
- The children in their Bubble will have to self-isolate for 15 days.
- **Bubbles:** We have organised each Phase into 'Bubbles' – Bubble 1 = Nursery and Reception, Bubble 2 = Year 1 and Year 2, Bubble 3 = Year 3 and Year 4, and Bubble 4 = Year 5 and Year 6. Each Bubble will have playtime and lunch together.
- **Staggered Start / Finish Times:** We continue to stagger the start times and pick-up times to minimise the number of children walking through the building. **See the attached Parent Guide,** you must arrive at the times allocated to your Bubble. Children will only be allowed onsite at their designated times. Your child/ren will be greeted by a member of staff who will ensure they enter and leave the school positively and safely. Please ensure you observe social distancing and leave immediately. At these times, it will be tempting to stop and catch up with other parents; however, we kindly ask that you please do not gather at the entrance and exits gates. Please leave the paths clear. In the case of an emergency, when another adult needs to pick up your child, please contact the office to let us know who the adult will be.
- **Our One-Way System:** we will continue to follow a one-way system throughout the school.
- **Breakfast Club & School Plus:** Breakfast Club and School Plus will start from the week beginning Monday 7th September and the new fees will come into effect from this date. A reminder of the new fees are:
 - **School Plus** - £9 per child / £7 for children entitled to FSM





- **Breakfast Club** – £2 per child (remains the same)

Parents will now need to pre-book and pay in advance for both School Plus and Breakfast Club via ParentPay by midnight the night before you would like the place - please see attached parent guide for instructions. This is so staff can organise the children according to their Bubble. To minimise risk, Breakfast Club and School Plus will move to the middle hall, and we will use the large dinner tables for each year group. For Breakfast Club, children will need to be dropped off at the main office from 8.00am, and for School Plus, children will need to be collected via the office entrance before 6.00pm.

- **After School Clubs:** During the autumn term, we will not be able to provide the usual range of extra-curricular clubs as this would mean that children would be mixing with children from other bubbles unnecessarily. However, this will be reviewed after half term.
- **Mask/Face Coverings:** Children under 11 do not need to wear a face mask on public transport or in shops. However, if you choose for your child to wear a mask to and from school, it must be removed and taken home before they enter the school site. No face coverings will be worn in class.
- **Uniform:** We will return to a full school uniform. Please remember our policy is black shoes without colours, sparkles or stripes. On the day when your child has PE, they must wear their PE kit to school.
- **Equipment:** Please note your child will not need to bring a school bag to school, they will only need to bring their reading book. A plastic book bag will be provided to your child on the first day of school so that they can wipe it down with antibacterial wipes.
- **Bikes/Scooters:** Whilst we do encourage cycling to school, unfortunately, we cannot store scooters or bicycles on site. If your child does use a bike or scooter, you will need to take it home to ease congestion and ensure drop off and pick up happens as efficiently as possible. For any children who travel to and from school via bike/scooter alone, please come and speak to me so that we can find a suitable resolution.
- **Water Bottles:** Your child should bring a water bottle to school every day because they will not be able to access the water foundations in the playground at playtime and lunchtime.
- **Packed lunches:** Your child/ren's packed lunch box and the bag should be cleaned thoroughly every evening.
- **The School Office:** will be open to appointments and medical emergencies. If you have any queries, you could speak to the staff at the gates in the morning, call the office to leave messages for teachers, or email Thornhill@Thornhill.islington.sch.uk.
- **Change in family circumstances:** During the lockdown period and over the summer, some families have been affected by COVID-19 or other family problems, please let us know if you or your child/ren have been affected in any way so that we can put additional support in place for them when they return.

I cannot stress how important it is for all children to return to school in September, and I fully understand the concerns you may have. However, we took a very cautious approach in June to ensure we could re-open school safely.

I am confident that the staff understand the importance of keeping themselves and your child/ren safe. Whilst we were able to provide some home learning, this will never make up for the quality of provision your child will receive at school. I so look forward to seeing each and every one of our delightful children on the Monday 7th September.

With best wishes,

Miss Lewis
Headteacher

