



Dear Parents and Carers

A huge Thank You to our wonderful parents

As we approach the end of the school year the staff and I wanted to congratulate each and every one of our fantastic parents and carers on the fabulous job you have been doing since March! Your energy, determination and positivity in becoming teachers-at-home has amazed us! We know it's been really hard, and especially for those of you whose children couldn't return. We haven't forgotten about you and we hope that the Google Classroom has helped make each day of home teaching just that little bit easier.

From what we have seen, you all deserve "Ofsted Brilliant!" in your front windows. Thank you from us all.



Our exciting new Curriculum

As we went into lockdown you may remember we had completely overhauled our curriculum, and the complete picture is now available on our website. The Overview will help you follow how your child is learning more and remembering more throughout their journey with us. We will be in **Year B** in Autumn, starting the year with All about me, and Fabulous Festivals in our Early Years, finding out about Famous People who changed our lives in Years 1 & 2, and discovering Tomb Raiders and making pneumatic sarcophagi in Years 3 & 4! We can't wait to get started again!! Detailed coverage is also available for every subject on our Curriculum webpage. In Autumn we will also be handing out our new Mind Map Overviews which you can put on your fridge for handy reference.

Whole School Curriculum Overview KS1 - LKS2

This is the second year of the 2-year rolling programme of learning

Year B of Rolling Programme

YEAR B	YEAR 1			YEAR 2			YEAR 3			YEAR 4		
	AUTUMN	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN	SPRING	SUMMER
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT	PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT			PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT			PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT			PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT		
Focus Values	Respect, Friendship, Understanding & Sharing	Co-operation, Fairness & Forgiveness	Trust, Tolerance, Hope & Appreciation	Respect, Friendship, Understanding & Sharing	Co-operation, Fairness & Forgiveness	Trust, Tolerance, Hope & Appreciation	Respect, Friendship, Understanding & Sharing	Co-operation, Fairness & Forgiveness	Trust, Tolerance, Hope & Appreciation	Respect, Friendship, Understanding & Sharing	Co-operation, Fairness & Forgiveness	Trust, Tolerance, Hope & Appreciation
Focus Feelings	Proud, angry, sad & jealous	Disappointed, frustrated & loved	Nervous, accepted, excited & surprised	Proud, angry, sad & jealous	Disappointed, frustrated & loved	Nervous, accepted, excited & surprised	Proud, angry, sad & jealous	Disappointed, frustrated & loved	Nervous, accepted, excited & surprised	Proud, angry, sad & jealous	Disappointed, frustrated & loved	Nervous, accepted, excited & surprised
TOPIC	FAMOUS PEOPLE WHO CHANGED OUR LIVES	LONDON	EXPLORE THE WORLD	FAMOUS PEOPLE WHO CHANGED OUR LIVES	LONDON	EXPLORE THE WORLD	TOMB RAIDERS	DISAPPEARING RAINFORESTS	WE'LL MEET AGAIN (WW2)	TOMB RAIDERS	DISAPPEARING RAINFORESTS	WE'LL MEET AGAIN (WW2)
ENGLISH	ENGLISH			ENGLISH			ENGLISH			ENGLISH		
Phonics focus	Phases 3-5. Year 1 phonics check in June. Word reading, comprehension (listening and reading) transcription, articulating ideas, structuring them			Phase 3-4. Phonics re-set for those working towards age expectation. Word reading, comprehension (listening and reading) transcription, articulating ideas, structuring them			Read at age-appropriate interest level, with accuracy, speed & understanding. Decode new words outside their spoken vocabulary. Justify their views about what they have read with support.			Read at age-appropriate interest level, with accuracy, speed & understanding. Decode new words outside their spoken vocabulary. Justify their views about what they have read with increasing independence.		
Handwriting focus	Printed lettering style. Seating position and pencil grip. Securing correct formation of letters and numbers 0-9.			Seating position and pencil grip. Securing correct formation of letters and numbers 0-9. Focus on joining letters correctly. Working towards achieving a fully cursive style.			Cursive writing embedding joins and working towards own handwriting style increasing legibility, consistency and quality.			Cursive writing refining own handwriting style ensuring downstrokes are parallel and ascenders and x-ceders and descenders do not touch.		
	Spellings linked to National Curriculum; Focus on verbs, command			Spellings linked to National Curriculum; Focus on verbs, command			Spellings linked to National Curriculum; Focus on growing knowledge of root words, prefixes, suffixes. Planning, drafting,			Spellings linked to National Curriculum; Focus on growing		

Preparing for the return of all pupils in September 2020

Towards the end of last week the Government announced the plan for the return of all pupils to school for the start of the new school year in Autumn 2020.

We are delighted to be able to welcome our pupils back. We know that the time spent out of class during this pandemic has been very difficult for everyone. The guidance has made a number of changes and I am writing to you to make you aware of the main points.

This is a long list! However, the most important point is that we are here to listen and support our families, and if there are any things which cause you concern or you need more detail about, please don't hesitate to call us!

School attendance will be mandatory from September. This means that **all** pupils will be required to attend and that we, as a school, need to follow the attendance responsibilities and follow up on any absence. On 1st August the Government will pause its advice for vulnerable people who are shielding. This means that pupils who have been shielding, or living with parents who are shielding, will be able to come into school and attend fully in September.

However, in a small number of cases, a pupil may be medically advised that they still should not attend school. We will be in touch with you if we feel this could apply to your child.

We recognise that this may cause you concern, as the virus is still in circulation and there is no vaccine available yet. Please call us to talk through your concerns so that we can discuss the measures we are putting in place for your child in their classroom.

Class groups will increase in size and the class now becomes its own “Bubble”. In order to welcome all children back, the class numbers have increased in size and have returned to previous numbers per class. Children are no longer required to keep 2 metres apart within their Bubble.

In Years 1-4, your child will be sitting side-by-side with another pupil, and in desks that face forward. This is to minimize transmission by limiting the numbers of face-to-face contact.

In Nursery and Reception, the children do not sit at tables for any length of time, and so they will continue to move around the classroom.

Staff are now allowed to go between Bubbles in order to carry out their teaching and support duties. Resources can be shared inside the Bubble (e.g. books) , and some can now be shared between Bubbles providing they are cleaned (e.g. sports equipment)

In order to minimise risks we will be:

- Still reminding children to keep a distance where possible
- Encouraging regular and thorough washing of hands throughout the day
- Cleaning surfaces frequently and meticulously during the day and after school
- Providing separate equipment for each child for those items that are used frequently (e.g. pencils, crayons etc)
- Regularly cleaning resources which are used by the whole Bubble (e.g. books)
- Cleaning resources that are shared between Bubbles and ideally using a rota system to allow sports equipment to be unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics).
- Avoiding unnecessary sharing whenever possible.
- Minimizing face-to-face contact between staff and pupils (e.g. hearing readers by sitting to the side of the pupil; keeping a distance when not individually supporting a child).

The guidance states that parents, carers and staff should engage with the NHS test and trace. So that we can protect our school and our community, we are asking everyone to be alert for signs of the virus, and to follow the guidance in order to stop a second spike.

To do this we ask that:

- If your child is unwell you do not send them into school and you call us to let us know.
- If you, your child, or anyone in your household, has Coronavirus symptoms then do not send them into school and let us know. The person with the symptoms needs to isolate for 7 days, the rest of the family need to isolate for 14 days. You must arrange for a test (online: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119). You must tell us the result.
- If the result is positive, the school will contact the local health protection team. The team will carry out a rapid risk assessment and make sure those in contact self-isolate. This could mean that the class “Bubble” needs to self isolate, or it could mean that more than one “Bubble” needs to isolate.
- If you are asked to provide details of contacts, or asked to self isolate, that you help the NHS test and trace team and follow the guidance they give.

If there is a possible outbreak

If there is a local outbreak (2 or more cases within 14 days in one setting) then the local health protection team will decide if additional action is needed and could recommend different Bubbles or the whole school needs to self-isolate as a precautionary measure.

In this instance it is possible that a mobile testing unit would be sent to the school to help identify confirmed cases.

Our new curriculum expectations

We will be making changes to our curriculum so that we can help close any gaps that have occurred due to the 3 months that some children have not been in school. There will be a greater focus on the basic skills of reading, phonics, extending vocabulary, writing and maths. We will continue to enjoy rich and broad learning experiences, including all the usual afternoon activities. Some pupils may be in smaller focus groups initially to help them catch up, but it is our hope that our normal curriculum for all pupils will be back by Summer 2021.

It is likely that remote learning will also be part of this year's learning. In the event of an individual pupil's self-isolation, a Bubble self-isolation, or a whole school isolation, then learning will continue using our Google Classroom. It is our aim that we will provide learning which matches that which would have taken place in class, and for a similar length of time. The Government has stated that this online learning is not optional. Therefore we have already sent out a questionnaire to find out how you have been using the Google Classroom, and how we can help you more if there have been difficulties. We want everyone to feel confident to use this next year when the need arises, as we want to be able to give you feedback each day and adjust the work to meet pupil needs.

Any child who is not in school due to self-isolation will immediately be offered remote learning opportunities on our Google Classroom.

Dawn until Dusk

Due to our small size, we are able to re-introduce our before and after school clubs. We are currently speaking with the D2D managers to confirm the final arrangements needed to make sure we have our protective measures in place. We will let you know more about this later.

School uniform

We are particularly keen to start the year with a flourish and want all our children to be looking their very best. Last year, a number of non-uniform items crept in, and caused confusion for the children who weren't always sure what they could wear or maybe felt under pressure to have a different hair band or wear nail varnish. This year we want to support you and help make sure that shirts are tucked in, hair tied back, and everyone is ready to learn. A list was issued recently, and you have come back to ask about some of the items that were missing. Thank you for drawing this to our attention! The new, updated list will be sent out shortly.

Starts/ finish and lesson timings

We will need to look carefully at staggered start times, finish times and how we can make sure the school day remains the statutory length for your child. We will let you know these timings shortly.

Items to bring in

Your child should bring in their bookbag (no non-uniform rucksacks please), a suitable coat, a hat, named suncream, water bottle and reading book. No cuddly toys or show and tell items please. All items must be named to avoid any cross-contamination.

Lunch times, playtimes and assemblies

We are no longer able to meet as a whole school. Assemblies will take place daily in individual classrooms. Playtimes will be staggered, but two Bubbles may be outside at one time in separate areas to avoid mixing. Lunch times will consist of two Bubbles in the hall at a time, but at a distance (sitting either side of the hall) and tables will be thoroughly cleaned between sittings. We hope that hot lunches will return in the Autumn.

We have been able to keep the lunch fees to a minimum for several years, but are now being asked to charge a similar daily rate to other schools. We realise these are hard times for everyone and we have negotiated a rate that is on average 25p a day cheaper than other schools. The hot lunches will be £2.20 (but remain free to all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2).



A message to parents and carers of our very special Year 4 Leavers

We can't finish without saying how truly disappointed we feel to be saying goodbye to our lovely Year 4 Owls without the usual celebration, leavers concert, class parties and send off. As parents and carers we know this has been a particular concern and disappointment for you all. We hope this chance to physically see each other, share memories, voice any worries and "tie up" their year will help them feel ready and confident to move on to Middle School. Saying Goodbye is always hard, and within the limitations we have to follow, we promise to do our best to make the morning memorable for your child. We very much look forward to seeing them on Wednesday 15th July. They will be in socially distanced seating and tables, and any items they will bring home (e.g. old workbooks) will have been left untouched on their tables for the required period of time to avoid transmission.

Finally, thank you for taking the time to read through this very long list of updates! If there is anything which is causing you concern, please call Ms Barron (01525 402377) to arrange to speak to me, or any of the teachers. Alternatively, you can email us (hbarron@thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk) and all messages will be passed on to the right staff member.

We want you to feel happy and positive about the return to school, and if there is anything we can do to help please let us know.

Kind regards

Marian Haimes

Head teacher