



24th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Preparing for the return of all pupils on 8th March 2021

Welcome Back

We are delighted to be able to welcome all our pupils back on 8th March! We can't wait to see everyone again!

Closure day for training and cleaning: Fri 5th March

In order to prepare for reopening, the school will be closed to all pupils on Friday 5th March. This will enable staff who have been working remotely to receive updated training and prepare their classrooms, and for the school to be thoroughly cleaned. We apologise for any inconvenience.

School reopening plans

Much of the guidance remains the same as before, with our continuing best protection against the transmission of the virus being high standards of hygiene. Therefore, we will continue to endorse regular hand washing and hand sanitisation, regular cleaning, use of individual resources wherever possible and use of space and ventilation wherever we can.

Much of this will be familiar, and the purpose of this update is to outline any new, or slightly altered, features of this reopening. However, I am also attaching the more detailed information which you received in September, to remind you of the main points.

Perhaps the most important message is that our staff are here to listen and support you, and if there are any things which cause you concern or you need more detail about, please don't hesitate to phone or email us!

School attendance will be mandatory again. 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.

If your child has been identified as vulnerable and has been advised of this by their medical practitioner, please let us know so that we can continue to support them remotely.

If your child is not classified as vulnerable, but you are still anxious, 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.

Return of any borrowed equipment

Please return your devices on the first day of school. Don't forget to include the lead, mouse, and any carrying case!

New or updated information

Self-isolation. Pupils must not come into school if

- they have one or more coronavirus symptoms (a new, persistent cough; a temperature; a loss of, or change in, their sense of taste or smell,
- a member of their household or support bubble has coronavirus symptoms,
- they or any family member has a positive test,
- **the family is required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel area**
 1. Anyone arriving in England must quarantine for 10 days and take 2 coronavirus tests while you are in quarantine.
 2. If you have been in a country on the travel ban red list in the 10 days before you arrive, you will need to quarantine in a government approved hotel.

Our new curriculum expectations

We have seen the most wonderful engagement from parents and carers during this lockdown, and we have been amazed at your hard work supporting your child over the past 2 months! Once again, on our return, the priority will be to identify any gaps that have occurred during this latest lockdown, and to continue to build on the closing of gaps from last summer. We will do our utmost to offer a full curriculum - including subjects such as music, which had many Covid restrictions last time - however, there will be a greater focus on the basic skills of reading, phonics, extending vocabulary, writing and maths.

As we identify areas where some pupils would benefit from more individualised support, we will again run smaller focus groups to help them.

Start/ finish timings (see separate attachment)

We have changed the timings of our starts and finishes to allow a 10 min gap between groups. Please do not arrive earlier than 5 mins before your designated time, to avoid overlapping with another group.

We have also changed the procedure for siblings. They now have their own drop off/collection time and door. We hope this will help simplify matters further.

If you are collecting from the main playground please go right onto the hard standing, rather than waiting by the ramp. This will make it easier for you and others to maintain 2m social distancing.

Face coverings

As before, please wear a face covering on our site unless you are medically exempt. Thank you. Staff will be wearing face coverings themselves when coming into contact with any adult or visitor outside of their regular Bubble.

Hot school lunches

These will be available as before. The hot lunches will be £2.20 (but remain free to all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) .

If you wish to purchase a meal, please email our Kitchen Manager, Katy, on ksandifer@thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk preferably on the Monday of the week. If your child has any allergies, please let Katy know and she will provide you with a form to complete.

Dawn until Dusk - before and after school club

This provision will be opening as before on 8th March, and Paula may be in contact with you if you have previously used the service so that she can make any bookings for your child that you might need. If you have not used this service before, and would like to know more details, please contact Paula Stacey.

thomasjohnson@kidsdawnatdusk.co.uk

If your child is unwell

Our staff are not vaccinated against Covid-19. We are carrying out self-testing twice a week, so that any infections can be quickly identified. You know your child best, so please be alert for Covid symptoms and if they are unwell please let us know. As before, until Easter, we ask that you remain extra cautious and keep them at home if you are unsure.

Remote learning for pupils who are self isolating

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. Providing work for the Google Classroom takes several hours, and therefore, in the case of single pupil isolation, the Classroom will not include teacher videos, however we will do our best to offer support through other means.

The following information has not changed since our reopening in September 2020.

The class "bubble" continues

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).

If there is an 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.

School uniform and PE

We want all our children to be looking their very best. Once again we will be supporting your child and making sure that shirts are tucked in, hair tied back, and everyone is ready to learn. Children should wear PE kits on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The kit should be a plain black, grey or bottle green tracksuit, with plain black trainers.

Items to bring in

Your child should bring in their green bookbag (no non-uniform bags or rucksacks please), a suitable coat, a hat, 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 still 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.

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 any further spikes.

To do this we ask that if you or your child is unwell you do not send them into school and you call us to let us know.

You will need to:-

- **book a test** if you or your child has symptoms - the main symptoms are:
 - a high temperature,
 - a new continuous cough, a
 - loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- **self-isolate immediately and do not come to school if:**
 - you or your child develop symptoms
 - you have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for Covid-19.
 - anyone in your household or support or childcare bubble develops symptoms of Covid-19
 - you are required to do so having recently travelled from certain other countries
 - you have been advised to isolate by NHS test and trace or the PHE local health protection team, which is a legal obligation
 - Provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with, if they test positive for coronavirus (Covid-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace