



# Thomas Johnson Lower School

*Dream-Discover-Flourish*  
A Values-based Education School

3rd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Welcome back to a new school year!**

The new term starts on Monday 6th September and we very much look forward to seeing all the children back with their friends again, ready to enjoy some fantastic learning in their new classes.

In recognition of the Government moving to Stage 4 of their plan, we are adapting the way we operate. The country has moved away from the previous stringent restrictions and each of you will have been adapting to these changes in ways that make you and your family feel safe.

Our risk assessment (available on our website) follows the latest DfE guidance. We know that the pandemic is not over, and the biggest risk to health remains a Variant of Concern which fully or partially escapes immunity. Therefore we have produced an Outbreak Management Plan as part of our risk assessment.

Our focus will be, as always, on high-quality learning experiences for your child. We know that face-to-face education is the best way for children to learn, and whilst we will be ready to revert to Home Learning should this be needed, we very much hope that by working together, the risk of transmission will be reduced.

## **Start and End of the School Day**

### **Parents with children in years 1-4**

**The school day starts at 8.50am and ends at 3.20pm**

Start of day: Parents and children should make their way to the main playground. When the bell rings, your class teacher will call your child over to make a line once the bell has rung. You must stay with your child until the bell rings and they are collected by the teacher.

End of day: The class teacher will bring the children out in a line and they will be released to you one at a time

### **Pre-School and Reception**

**EYFS children start their day at 8.55am and finish at 3.15pm**

Parents of EYFS children should make their way to the Hedgehogs door (outside the hall door). For the first day, please feel free to bring your child into the classroom to find their peg and hang up

***Head teacher: Mrs M Haines***

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their coat. We politely request that you consider wearing a face covering when doing this, if possible. You should also collect your child from this entrance.

**We will no longer operate a one-way system at drop-offs.**

### **Face Coverings**

Face coverings will now be discretionary outside although we politely ask that parents and carers wear them indoors, if possible, when talking to staff. We hope that this cautious approach will help minimise risks.

### **School Uniform**

Your child should wear their normal school uniform and bring a named water bottle and green bookbag into school. Transfer tattoos, nail varnish and jewellery (apart from stud earrings) are not allowed in school.

### **PE days and kit**

Children should come to school in their PE kit on designated PE days. These are:

Reception = Thursday  
Years 1-3 = Tues and Thursday  
Year 4 = Monday and Thursday

### **Break and Lunchtimes**

We will continue to operate a staggered breaktime and lunchtime. This means that EYFS and KS1 (Hedgehogs, Foxes and Badgers) will play together. Similarly in KS2 (Owls and Eagles) those classes will enjoy their own separate playtime. Bubbles are no longer in operation, so all children within their Key Stages can once again enjoy being with each other.

The children will eat in the hall in their class groups with tables being cleaned between sittings.

We operate a Healthy Eating policy and will be releasing details and support about this next week. Please see our website for details.

### **Minimising Transmission**

We will continue to do all we can to minimise the risk of transmission by maximising air flow in all areas of the school, and by following our enhanced cleaning regime through the day. This includes the use of disinfectants and regular hand washing opportunities.

### **Bubbles and Guidance on Self Isolation**

We are no-longer required to operate a bubble approach, which means that children can mix between classes and across cohorts. This will include break times, assemblies and after-school clubs.

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There is no requirement for children to self-isolate if identified as a close contact of a positive case unless they have symptoms. Instead they should take a PCR test. If they test positive, they should self-isolate for 10 days. When a positive case occurs within a class, the parents of children in that class will be informed for the sake of courtesy.

Children under the age of 5 will only be advised to take a PCR test if the positive contact is a household member.

If your child is feeling unwell then please keep them at home. The most common COVID symptoms include a headache, a high temperature and a cough. If you are in any way unsure, please speak to our office manager Helen Barron (01525 402377) and she will help advise you.

We will send out further updates and more information about ordering school meals, our healthy eating policy and other useful information on Monday, when we very much look forward to seeing you again.

With best wishes,



Marian Haimes  
**Headteacher**

***Head teacher: Mrs M Haimes***

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