



# Thoresby Primary School

Thoresby Street, Hull, HU5 3RG

Telephone: 01482 342972, Fax: 01482 492213

Email: [admin.thoresby@hcat.org.uk](mailto:admin.thoresby@hcat.org.uk)

Website: [www.thoresbyprimaryschool.org](http://www.thoresbyprimaryschool.org)

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Melissa Milner



Dear Parents / Carers

RE: School Re-opening

The Government has announced that schools will begin partial re-opening including Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils which could be as soon as June 1<sup>st</sup>. We understand they will make their next announcement on May 28<sup>th</sup>. At Thoresby, these year groups amount to 277 pupils in addition to the children of key workers who are already attending our emergency childcare provision.

As Headteacher, I listened to this announcement with mixed feelings. This news, of course, is a step nearer to welcoming our families back to Thoresby and to some sort of normality. However, I must be honest and transparent with you in that I have a duty to make sure your children and our staff are as safe as possible and that under current circumstances and guidelines, we simply cannot safely accommodate this number of children and staff within the building.

We have therefore made the decision to open initially to Foundation Stage 2 (Reception) children when the government gives the go ahead. Initially this will be **mornings and lunchtime only**. We plan to gradually expand to accommodate full time places and other year groups when we feel this is safe to do so.

We have looked at the size of our classrooms and decided children should be in groups of no more than 10. There are many other changes we will have to make to reduce the risk of contracting COVID 19. I must stress that even with these changes we cannot guarantee children attending school will not contract the virus. Primary schools are unable to socially distance and will not routinely have nor use PPE in classrooms (in line with government guidance).

**AS PARENTS YOU HAVE THE CHOICE TO SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT MADE THIS COMPULSORY. WE RESPECT YOUR DECISION AND WILL NOT PLACE PRESSURE EITHER WAY.**

To minimise risks;

- **Initially we will partially re-open for Foundation Stage 2 pupils whose parents have expressed a preference**
- **Children will work in small hubs (bubbles) of NO MORE THAN 10 children. This will not necessarily be with children who have been in their normal classes.**
- **Bubbles will be kept separate from other children within school as much as possible, however they will have to share toilet facilities.**
- **We will endeavour to keep the same group of staff working with the bubble. However, this will not necessarily be the same member of staff every day and is subject to change due to staff self-isolating and being taken ill.**
- **Classroom delivery will look very different to normal practice. Our Foundation Stage 2 children usually spend a part of each day in 'continuous provision' where they play with a range of equipment and each other. Play sessions and the amount of equipment will be reduced**





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so we can keep areas cleaned. Soft toys/ furnishings will be removed. This also applies to outdoor equipment. The focus of the children's time in school will be to reinforce basic skills and follow the same curriculum as that given through home schooling.

- Children normally sit closely together in Foundation Stage, either on the carpet for group work or in free play. We will encourage children to stay further apart and limit their opportunities to play closely together. **HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT PARENTS NOTE THAT WE CAN NOT IMPLEMENT SOCIAL DISTANCING WITH CHILDREN OF THIS AGE.**
- Bubbles will access outdoor space separately to other groups. They will have lunch in their classrooms (grab bags or pack up).
- Start and end of the days will be staggered for each bubble to enable social distancing as parents drop off and pick up.
- The timings of the school day will be reduced to start with. Children will normally attend each morning and go home after lunch. There will be no lunch outdoor play.
- Depending on numbers who take up places, it is likely that Foundation Stage 2 children will be using classrooms across the school and not in their normal setting.
- We will encourage frequent hand washing and the "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it" approach to coughs and sneezes.
- Unwell children with Coronavirus symptoms will be kept apart from the others and parents contacted.
- Children and families of those who have experienced any symptoms of Coronavirus will be asked to follow government guidelines for self- isolation and testing.
- Classrooms, toilets and communal areas will be cleaned throughout the day using approved products.
- We ask that children do not bring things to and from school/ home (reading books, toys etc). The only items children can bring into school each day is their pack up if they are not having a school grab bag and a water bottle.
- Children should wear uniform where possible, but we understand they may have grown out of some items! Government guidelines state that children's clothes should be washed when arriving home each day to reduce the risk of contamination.

We understand this is a lot of information and changes to our normal practice. In this new world of 'new normal' our plans seem to change each day. We really appreciate your understanding and support at such a difficult time.

We have contacted Foundation Stage 2 parents by telephone and for those who have chosen to take up a place, we will update you on your child's bubble and drop off/pick up arrangements by the end of this week.

**Our emergency childcare provision for children of key workers/ vulnerable children will remain the same. These are full time places with Breakfast Club provision.**

We ask Y6, Y1 and Foundation Stage 1 (Nursery) parents to bear with us – as soon as we are able, we will contact you about your child attending school. Please don't hesitate to call the school [01482 342972](tel:01482342972) or email [enquiries.thoresby@hcat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.thoresby@hcat.org.uk) if you have any queries.

Best wishes

Melissa Milner

