



Thoresby Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Melissa Milner

17th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

With the end of this academic year drawing to a close, Thoresby and HCAT would like to thank the community for the hard work, support and incredible resilience shown over the last few months. The situation we have all found ourselves in, has been difficult for everyone and one, that is indeed, unprecedented. We have been working on arrangements for September, when we will welcome everyone back into school. Below are some key actions that will support your child returning to school,

Opening

The planned training days on Monday 7th September and Tuesday 8th September for staff have now been postponed in order to facilitate an earlier start to the school year. As a result, the autumn term start date will now be **Monday 7th September 2020**.

For the school to follow the government guidance on safety we will be staggering our start and end times to the school day. Children will receive the same amount of teaching time throughout the day as we are reducing the length of lunchtimes to 45 minutes. We ask that you stick to these times as closely as possible as we are unable to accommodate parents/ children gathering a few minutes before drop offs and pick-ups. There will always be a member of staff supervising at these times and we will not let any child leave without handing over to the named adult (older children may have permission from parents to travel to school unaccompanied).



EYFS FS1 NURSERY	8.30am –11.30am (am session) 12.30pm-3.30pm (pm session)	Entry/ exit through EYFS pedestrian gate on Thoresby St and external classroom door
EYFS FS2 RECEPTION	8.55am-3.00pm	One-way entry through car park main gate/ exit through EYFS pedestrian gate on Thoresby Street. Entry to building through external classroom doors.
Years 1/2	8.55am – 3.00pm	Entry/ exit through the main school gates (one-way system marked). Classes line up on playground to be accompanied as a class bubble into the building.
Years 3/4	9.00am- 3.00pm	Entry/exit through community area gates (one-way system marked). Classes line up on the 3G pitch to be accompanied as a class bubble into the building.
Years 5/6	9.15am – 3.15pm	Entry/ exit through the main school gates (one-way system marked). Classes line up on playground to be accompanied as a class bubble into the building.

We understand these times may cause some difficulty for parents and ask for your understanding. We will have a limited number of places for children of keyworkers at Breakfast Club (8.00am-start of school) and After School Club (end of school until 4.30pm) for which there will be a charge. Places will be on a first come, first served basis and booked a week in advance.

Year group bubbles

Every year group will operate as a bubble (FS1/FS2 will form their own bubble). Children across the 3 classes in each year group will come into contact with each other but contact with other year groups will be minimised as much as possible. Classrooms will look a little different than normal, however the guidelines now allow the use of equipment in order to deliver the curriculum. Year groups that normally sit at desks will continue to do so, however EYFS FS1/ FS2 and Year 1 children will be allowed to continue to have classrooms organised to enable 'play' and continuous provision.



Lunchtimes

Lunchtimes will be staggered and children will be eating in their classrooms. The school meal service will provide either a cold or hot 'grab bag'. Menus will be posted on our website. These will be at the normal school price of £1.50 per meal. Universal free school meals will still apply to FS2 and Y1/2. A new school online payment system will be up and running in September to avoid any cash payments. Alternatively, children may bring in a healthy packed lunch from home. Please remember that we have number of children that have severe allergies including;

Nuts (including peanuts, brazil nuts and cashews)

Beans

Eggs

White fish

Please make sure if you do provide a packed lunch that it does not contain any of these ingredients.

Year groups will have a short 15 minute lunchtime play.

Risk Assessments

The school has compiled a comprehensive risk assessment for reopening that will be available through our school website, paper copies will also be available on request. Please let us know if your child has any additional medical needs that require a separate risk assessment (normally this will be shown on a shielding letter from the NHS).

All schools within the trust will follow the same protocol should a suspected or confirmed case of COVID become apparent. These procedures have been compiled following advice from the relevant health services, local authority and government guidance.

Attendance

In line with government advice we will be expecting pupils in all year groups to return to school on Monday 7th September. We understand some parents and children will feel anxious about this. Our well-being team are here to support families and can be contacted via the enquiries.thoresby@hcat.org.uk. The school will follow up non-attendance following our usual policy.

The Curriculum

All schools within HCAT have been supported with a series of "catch up" programmes designed by a team of Specialist Leaders of Education. These programmes will address any gaps in learning that may have been missed during the lockdown. Schools will be using these early in the Autumn term combined with the broad range of the national curriculum content linked to their year group.



The school will be suspending large gatherings in the hall such as assemblies and concerts for the foreseeable future. PE lessons will focus on “non-contact” activities and be delivered outside where possible.

Whilst we continue to value our partnership with parents, under the current circumstances parents will only be allowed into school on an appointment basis in order to safeguard the community. Contact with schools will continue via email, dojo, tapestry and telephone.

HCAT is currently developing a refined online learning platform which can be utilised should the school need to temporarily close for year groups.

Behaviour and Safety

HCAT has adapted and reviewed the Behaviour Policy to reflect the current situation and emphasis on Health and Safety. We will be emphasising to children and parents the importance of the new procedures and rules to keep everyone safe.

FAQ

Can my child bring items from home?

Limited equipment may be brought from home including;

- Personal water bottles that are filled from home in a morning and returned to be cleaned in an evening. There are no water fountains available for use under government guidelines
- Book bags with home reading books will resume as normal
- PE kit (unless gymnastics) will not be required, however children need to be wearing appropriate footwear for physical activity)
- Healthy packed lunches if required
- Older children (Y5/6) may still bring a mobile phone which will be stored in their classrooms and switched off during the school day.

All other personal items such as toys/ cards/ footballs etc are not allowed to be brought to school. Hand gels/ sanitisers will be provided by the school and therefore there is no need for children to bring them in.

I have more than one child, how will I drop off/ pick up at different times?

We understand this may cause difficulty for some families and will provide a supervised designated space on the playground for siblings who start at different times.

What about Parents Evenings and ‘Meet the teacher’ sessions?

It is hard for us to plan further ahead than the first few weeks of school however the current guidelines mean we will be unable to have face to face parent sessions. New class teachers will be contacting you by telephone in September so that you are able to tell them all about your child.



Will my child have to sit in isolation in class?

No, children are able to sit at tables with a partner, however the tables will be arranged differently so children are not facing each other.

Can children play with each other on the playground?

Yes, because children will be within year group bubbles they are allowed to play with one another within these bubbles on the playground.

We will keep you informed of any changes that may happen over the holidays and make sure our whole school risk assessment is posted on the website over the final weekend of the holidays.

We wish you a safe and happy holiday

Your sincerely

Melissa Milner

