



Thoresby Primary School

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4th September 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Procedures for welcoming all children back to school

We are delighted to welcome all our children back to school from **Monday 7th September 2020!** We have spent the summer preparing our systems, procedures and the school building and are following all government guidance that was published last week.

We understand that some parents, children and staff will feel anxious about returning. The sheer amount of information is challenging and continues to change as our country's response to the pandemic alters.

Although we are publishing our full School COVID 19 Risk Assessment on our website (and attached to this letter), we thought it may be helpful to everyone to have a simple crib sheet that outlines the main points.

The government stress that our approach in schools this autumn must reflect the easing of lockdown measures and making sure that all children can have the education they are entitled to. These procedures have changed a little since the last summer term and are sure to change again! We will keep you all informed of any further amendments.

Our main focus is to;

PREVENT COVID 19

The ways we will do this are to;

Minimise contact between people as much as possible

- Children will mainly stay within their classrooms. When they do come into contact with others (eg at playtimes) this will be limited to their yeargroup.
- There will be much less movement around the school and one- way systems where possible in place. Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered so that yeargroups do not mix and corridors/ playgrounds are not crowded.



- Children will eat their lunches in their classrooms and have a short 15-minute lunch playtime with their yeargroup. **It is crucial any packed lunches do NOT contain nuts** as there are a number of children with nut allergies across the school. Additional information for other allergies will be sent out to individual classes if necessary.
- The start and end of the school day will be staggered for yeargroups and children will be dropped off onto the playground/ community area so they can enter the school in classes. Parents and carers are asked to leave the site immediately and that only one adult from a household picks up/ drops off.
- Children (especially the older ones) will be encouraged to socially distance where possible – although this can't be guaranteed in a primary school, the fewer times children come into close contact with others, the lower the risk.
- We will not have large groups coming together such as assemblies and concerts but we hope we can make use of Zoom technology to keep our sense of belonging and celebrate our community.
- Although children and staff do not have to wear masks in school, some may be travelling to and from school with a mask. Masks should be placed in a sealed plastic bag (eg a freezer bag) when they enter school.
- All water fountains have been switched off. Children need to bring their own water bottle that they take home and wash every day.
- We will no longer be able to take cash payments. **A new online payment system called Parent Pay is coming into effect from Monday 14th September. You will receive additional information about this next week. We will be unable to accept ANY cash payments (or any BACS payments) from the start of term – do not worry about the first week or so – your child can still have a school lunch/ a breakfast club place etc. This will be added to your account.**

Ensure staff and children clean their hands

- Hand gels or washing facilities will be available in all areas. Children and staff will clean their hands as they enter and leave the building and regularly throughout the day (eg as they come in from playtime, before they eat etc).

Everyone will follow the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' approach

- All areas have lidded bins, tissues will be available and children will be regularly reminded to follow this code.

There will be daily, enhanced cleaning

- We have an on -site cleaner on duty throughout the school day sanitising high touch areas such as door handles, classrooms and toilets in addition to the deeper cleans every evening.
- Resources and equipment will be regularly cleaned and where possible not shared across yeargroups. If equipment does need to be shared (eg PE mats), they will be sanitised between use or left for 48 hours (72 hours for plastics).



Make sure children are learning and filling gaps in knowledge

- We have a catch-up programme in place for all yeargroups to quickly get the children back to pre- lockdown levels.
- All subjects, including the arts, humanities, PE etc will still be taught and the children will still be learning about topics. We will make sure they get every chance to practise their reading, writing and maths skills as often as possible.

RESPOND RAPIDLY TO ANY INFECTION

The government has given clear guidance on what to do should anyone develop symptoms;

- If any child develops symptoms in school (new, persistent cough, high temperature or a lack of sense of smell/ taste) they will be isolated in a separate room and looked after until they are collected by parents/ carers. Parents/carers will then organise for the child to be tested. Appropriate PPE equipment will be available for staff.
- If a child shows any of these symptoms at home, they need to stay off school and be tested.

Managing Confirmed Cases

- If a member of staff or child tests positive, we have to immediately inform the Local Health Protection Team. They will carry out a rapid Risk Assessment and will advise us how we then proceed.
- We will fully engage with the track and trace system undertaken by the Health Protection Team.
- Anyone who has been in close contact with the confirmed case will be sent home and self-isolate for 14 days from the last contact (the Health care team will decide who these are).

The government is clear that the guidance is based upon the current decline in numbers across the country. They will issue further guidance if this situation changes or if an area goes into local lockdown.

I hope this letter helps to clarify things. I do appreciate you will probably have many more questions and I am sure we will be making tweaks as the children return to school and we see our plans in action. Please don't hesitate to contact enquiries.thoresby@hcat.org.uk if you have any queries or concerns.



I thank you once again for your continued patience and understanding and look forward to our school community being whole again in the coming months.

Best wishes

Melissa Milner
Executive Headteacher



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