

Thames View Infants



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14th September 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome Back to School!

I hope that you've enjoyed the summer with your children; It's great to see everyone back, especially after such a long and stressful time for many of our families.

The children are settling really well into their classes and, despite the social distancing measurements in place, there is a very happy atmosphere in school and it is clear that all of the children are benefitting from being back in the school routine and being able to interact and learn with their friends on a daily basis. Your children have shown great resilience and understanding since returning to school and they've quickly adapted to the new social distancing rules that we've had to put in place.

Learning for this year has been specially tailored to give all of our children the best chance at catching up after the lockdown and we are confident that we'll soon have all of our children back on track and making Outstanding progress once again.

I believe that our Academy continues to offer an Outstanding provision for our children and families and I look forward to building upon our previous year's successes, in partnership with my team and our colleagues at Thames View Juniors, to the benefit of all our pupils.

As I start my 14th year of Headship at TVI, I remain at your service to lead your child through a very successful year with us, albeit challenging in light of the current circumstances with Covid-19. We would hope that we will be able to deliver Learning in the usual way, in school and in the classroom. However, rest assured, even in the event of local lockdowns, we have made detailed preparations so that we will still be able to deliver our lessons online if need be.



We're a PAPERLESS School – so you must download & register your ParentMail App to receive e-newsletters, to book after-school clubs & Parents' meetings or to confirm consent for educational visits.

Here are some important messages and “top tips” to help us all “carry on from where we left off” before the lockdown and the summer break...

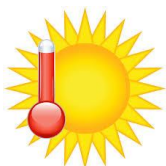
School Uniform

As you are no doubt already aware, all uniform sales are now online and via ParentMail only. So far this system seems to be working extremely well. All of our families who placed uniform orders over the summer break received them on the first day back at school.



Going forward, and as school gets busier, we will still aim to turn these orders around as quickly as possible but please bear with us because at particularly busy times this may now take up to a week.

For our new Reception and Nursery children, please note that we are allowing these children to wear their own clothes for the first few weeks of school in order to give our new families time to activate their ParentMail accounts, place their uniform orders and have them picked and delivered.



Overly Hot Children!

It's only just turned Autumn and **most children will not yet need a jumper or vest in school!** Children are really active at school. Wearing too many layers will over-heat them and increases the chances of items of clothing getting lost. Also, given the current Covid-19 restrictions, we would really appreciate it if you could restrain from sending children into school with excess items of clothing that they don't really need to have with them.

Please remember to make sure that children's names are written in all items of clothing.



Jewellery

Thank you for continuing **not** to bring your child to school wearing jewellery. No jewellery is allowed in school at all. If your child does have their ears pierced, please take their earrings out. Earrings, if pulled or caught, can result in a nasty tear. Please help us with this.

PE Kits

All children undertake two hours of high-quality PE in school each week. Throughout the year, they are taught PE in two weekly lessons – developing vital Gymnastics, Games and Dance skills.



Children require a PE kit and this needs to be in school all week. **Please make sure you provide your child with a PE kit and a suitable PE bag.** My teachers will be writing to you within their Year Groups to tell you when their PE lessons are. **It is essential that all of our children have a full PE kit in school at all times.**

Please note that due to the current Covid-19 restrictions in place we are not able at present to offer a 'spare' PE kit to any children who do not have their kit in school.

It's good to talk!

Teachers are busy getting to know their new classes. Please do come and introduce yourself to them (in a socially distanced way) in the playground! Good communication is so important and helps us get to know you and your children even quicker still.

In October, you will have the chance to meet with your child's class teacher online in a socially distanced Zoom Parent-Teacher Meeting. Dates and logistical details about how these meetings will take place will soon be available via the ParentMail App. In the meantime, for those of you who don't have Zoom accounts, we would recommend that you download the Zoom App and activate a Zoom account as soon as possible so that you are set up and ready for when the time comes.



First and Surnames

At TVI we want our children to know teachers by their first and surnames, depending on the formality of the situation. So you'll expect to hear your child referring to their teacher, for the most part, by their first name. (In assemblies and other formal times, for example, we revert to the formal Mr/Miss format). I greatly believe that children learn to respect their teachers through careful relationships within a vibrant provision and with 'high quality' teaching – which is what we have here at Thames View Infants.



We're here to Help! - Resolving Worries

We hope your child has a very successful academic year with us. We strive to provide the best education for all our children. My staff and I work very hard to build positive relationships with all parents and stakeholders and to offer exemplary customer service. All my staff are here to help – so please don't ever worry needlessly about anything. Listening to gossip often just makes things worse and is usually unfounded. Misunderstandings are almost always unintentional and when something is not right, it's important that you **come and talk to us straight away**. All of my staff, including Claire and I, are here to listen: come and talk to us and we'll see what we can do, together, to put things right. Emma Murphy (our Family Support Advisor) is always around in school to help too and she will be sending out more information shortly.



My staff are a great bunch of professionals, who really have a great passion and a genuine desire for your child to do well - many of whom have families of their own. At times, no doubt, you might get upset about something unintentional and we'll always be here to help you – but you mustn't take it out on us. **Accordingly, we won't tolerate threatening, vexatious or bullying/aggressive behaviour whatsoever.** We have a [Code of Conduct Policy](#) and any violations of this could result in you being **banned from the School premises** – which means not being allowed in beyond the School gates. That's something that we'd hate to see happen and we're keen to avoid, so please - for the well-being of your child's education – please, keep it calm and courteous in School.

Helping ALL Children Achieve their Best

We are very good at helping our children, regardless of their ability, to do particularly well. I judge the quality of learning as Outstanding and, together with careful planning, support and a deeply inclusive provision, all our children make particularly accelerated progress. Indeed, we are one of the highest attaining Infant Schools nationally. Teachers differentiate their work in each lesson and do their best to personalise this to the needs of individuals. The groupings in classes will change across lessons and also over time as we carefully tailor the learning so that your child gets the right balance of challenge and consolidation. If you feel you would like more information on the learning that your child is working on, or want to know what you could do at home to help further, come and talk to us.





Attendance

Remember that coming to school every day is now compulsory once again for all children. It is widely accepted that being back in school is essential for the academic, emotional and mental wellbeing of all of our children.

It's only natural that children may be a little bit worried about coming back into school after such a long break, a little bit of anxiety after a long absence of any kind is natural. However, please rest assured that experience shows us that children are almost always fine as soon as they get into school. Our staff are extremely experienced and one of our priorities in welcoming our children back into school this term will be helping our children emotionally adjust back into the school routine.

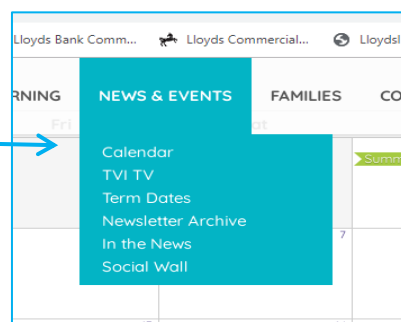
Remember, you should not book family holidays during school time – our term dates are up on our website and can be accessed via the following link: [Term Dates 2020-2021](#)

Last year our attendance was the highest of all Primary Schools within Barking and Dagenham and, this year, we want to build upon this further.

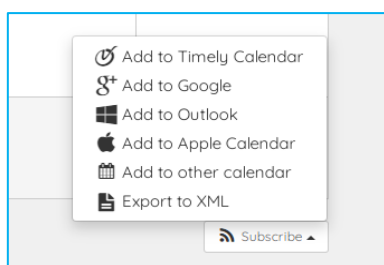
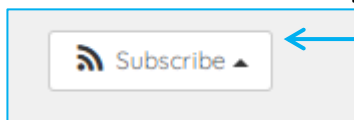
School Live Calendar

Please note that all of our dates for the entire year have now been entered onto the school calendar. All of this information is on our school website, but you can also sync the calendar with your phone / ipad so that you have *all* of these important dates saved onto the calendar in your own phone.

In order to do this, please go to our school website www.thamesviewinfants.org click on 'News & Events' and then select 'Calendar':



The Calendar will then pop up on your screen. At the bottom right hand corner you will see a link labelled 'Subscribe', please click on this and then a final box will appear which looks like this:



Please then click on the type of calendar that you have on your phone and everything in our calendar will automatically sync with your device. This even means that throughout the year, if we add anything to the calendar or make a change, these dates and times will automatically update on your phone without you even needing to do anything!

Virtually all of our school dates are set in advance on the School's live calendar in this way. However, please note that **sometimes, we do indeed have to make changes at short notice due to unforeseen circumstances.** Whilst this is inconvenient, when we do have to make changes, it's always unavoidable and always in the best interests of the School as a whole.

Safeguarding

It's not a nice subject, but I want you to remember, some important **Safeguarding obligations:**

- Children under 13 must not be on Facebook or Social Media and that's *your* responsibility.



- You (or your child minder) must stay with your child in the playground before and after School and NOT allow them to wander out of sight. You/they must never drop your child off at the School gates.
- It's illegal to smack a child, with an implement or in such a way that it leaves a mark. It is your legal responsibility to make sure that people looking after your child do not do this either. If a child happens to disclose this to us, which they do often willingly tend to do, then it's **our responsibility to seek advice from Social Services in the first instance and then follow *their* lead.**
- It's also your responsibility to send your children to School everyday and punctually too. Children who miss approximately, on average, a half-day a week (i.e. with attendance lower than 90%) will have their details passed to the Local Authority and reported to the DfE as a Persistent Absentee. This is a statutory measure and happens regardless of the reason for absence.

Breakfast Club and After School Clubs

We really want to get Breakfast club and our After School clubs started up again as soon as possible. However, at the moment we are prioritising and focussing on getting the children settled back into the normal school routine after such a long break.



We would love to be able to give you a date for when these clubs can restart. However, because of the ever changing situation with Covid-19 we are unable to commit to a set date at present.

Please rest assured that, as soon as it is possible, we will recommence our extended schools wraparound provision to help our working parents with their childcare needs.



Find out what we're doing – *all the time!*

If you really want to find out something quickly and get as-it-happens 'live updates' about what's going on at school and 'behind the scenes', join in with the conversation [@TVInfants](#) or [@TVIOffice](#)

www.twitter.com/TVInfants

Watch us on



We have an extensive online archive of Top-Tops, Podcasts and other movies from our Academy over the last few years. You could even search the archive and watch one of the other 300 videos we've made over the last few years.

ParentMail



Please also make sure that you check your ParentMail account **every single day!** ParentMail remains the primary method of communicating with our parents and it is more important than ever that, at present, we stay as joined up as possible and that you don't miss out on any of our messages.

Reminders!



If something is not right, whatever is, then come and talk to us. The more we all talk together, the better our children will do at school!



Please, bring your child to school wearing one of our new polo shirts.



Please remember to put your child's name in their clothes.



In KS1, children receive homework twice a week and extra copies are available on our website.



Children require slippers and/or sliders for classrooms and shorts & plimsolls for PE.



Children require their book bag every day and should read at home with an adult every evening.



Family holidays take place during school closures only.



EVERYTHING is available online – so explore our website!



Tweet with us on **Twitter**



Use Parent Mail and check it every day!

We're all so busy getting to know all our children anew, but please say hello if you see us outside and, as always, thank you for your on-going support.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Jordan
Headteacher