

Thames View Infants



Bastable Avenue
Barking
Essex, IG11 0LG
020 82704317
07950 440 843 (texts only)

Paul Jordan Headteacher
Paul.Jordan@TVIacademy.org

Claire Smith Deputy Headteacher
Claire.Smith@TVIacademy.org

Office@TVIacademy.org
ThamesViewInfants.org

We Tube @TVInfants

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Dear Parents/Carers;

Welcome to Reception at Thames View Infants!

We hope you have enjoyed the summer with your children. It's been great to see all of our KS1 children back at School, settling well into their classes. There is a very happy atmosphere everywhere and we are looking forward to welcoming all of our new Reception families into school next week.

This is my 14th Year as Headteacher at TVI and, as you've probably heard, we are a very special Academy. I do my best to make sure that we offer the best provision possible for our families and our children. Indeed, we've been awarded an Outstanding judgement by Ofsted *twice* (in 2009 and 2014) and I believe that our Academy continues to offer an Outstanding provision. We are all looking forward to meeting you and building upon last year's successes.



The key to all of this, I believe, is that we employ very dedicated and conscientious professionals who care a lot and work incredibly hard. And of course, in addition, Claire Smith and I teach. We teach across the school in order to get to know the children better, to inspire our teachers and to double-check that standards are just so. I hate being stuck in my office and am at my happiest when helping children to learn!

All of my staff are proud of their school, our children and our high attainment. Together, with you as our partners in this journey, we'll do our best to make sure our children do their best whilst at TVI.

Here are some important messages and "top tips" to help you, as newbie parents, get up to date with important messages...



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.



Parent Mail Please!

We **do not** send out paper copies of any letters at all. Most of you are now signed up to ParentMail but, if you haven't already done so, it is essential that you do this asap.

You will need ParentMail in order to:

- Receive all of our Newsletters / Weekly Reception Letters and Information on what's going on in School.
- To book After School Clubs / Breakfast Club for your children (Spring term at the earliest for Reception children)
- To provide consent for your child to go on any School Visits.
- To book Parent Teacher Meetings.
- To pay for School Visits or iPads.
- To purchase uniform.
- And much, much more!

Quite simply, if you don't get organised on ParentMail you will miss significant information about your child and our school. We really don't want that to happen!

It is very simple to get access to ParentMail: all school needs is a valid e-mail address and we will e-mail you the link. You then click on the link and follow the instructions and your account is automatically set up for you.

ParentMail



Once you have set up your ParentMail account you will be able to log into your account at any time that you like. You can log in using a PC, Laptop, Tablet or even your mobile. If you decide to use your mobile, we strongly recommend downloading the ParentMail app which is FREE! The App to download from the Appstore is Parentmail PMX.

Please note that...

- If you haven't already received a text or an e-mail from ParentMail then it's because we don't have an up to date e-mail address for you. If this is the case, please let the School Office know.
- Once we've sent you the link, you need to validate your e-mail address asap because the links that we send 'expire' after a short amount of time.

School Uniform

For the first week or so, and until you have all received your uniform orders, we are happy for the children to come to school wearing their own clothes.

However, after this time, uniform is compulsory. I wanted to remind you that we ask for all children to wear one of our school-branded shirts, available to purchase via ParentMail, in 6 vibrant colours, all priced £6:00 each. We do not want children to wear any other types of shirt/top whatsoever. The children designed the t-shirts themselves a few years ago now and are still very excited about wearing them. Please do support us in this initiative.



We also sell the PE kit via ParentMail too as well as School Jumpers and Cardigans.

As the weather turns, all children will need a pair of **household slippers**, to keep their feet warm in class – its nice for them and makes School feel homely.

How To Purchase Uniform

All uniform is sold via ParentMail. Please open your ParentMail account, click on 'Payments' and then on 'Shop'.

From there you will be able to select any uniform that you would like to purchase, add it to your basket and check out online.

This is our busiest time of the year and so at the moment our aim is for all orders to be picked and delivered to your child's class within a week. Your child will then come out from school with a blue shopping bag containing their uniform to take home with them.



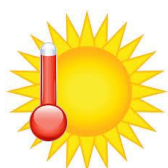
PE Kits

Again, the children won't be starting PE in Reception immediately. However, once they've settled in, all children at TVI 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 Reception teachers will be writing to you shortly in order to tell you when your child's 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.



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

No jewellery is allowed in school at all and we would be grateful if you could help us with this rule. If your child does have their ears pierced, please take their earrings out. Earrings, if pulled or caught, can result in a nasty tear.



It's good to talk!

Teachers will be 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.

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 compulsory for all children. It is widely accepted that being in school is essential for the academic, emotional and mental wellbeing of all of our children.

It's only natural that little 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. Or maybe it's your child's first time attending a school setting and they haven't been to our Nursery before... Either way, 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 top priorities when welcoming our new Reception children into school is to ensure that they quickly emotionally adjust into our school routine. We do our best to ensure that they have a fun and happy time at school so that they then enjoy coming back into school day after day.

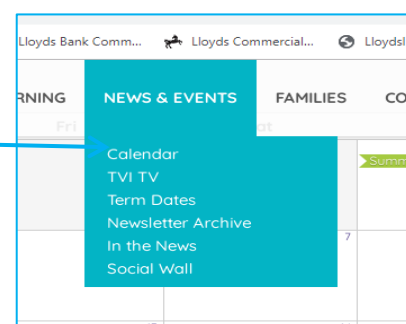
Of course, in order to achieve this, you need to make sure that you bring your child into school every single day. Remember, you should not book family holidays during school time – our term dates are up on our website and can be accessed via the following link: [Term Dates 2020-2021](#)

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.

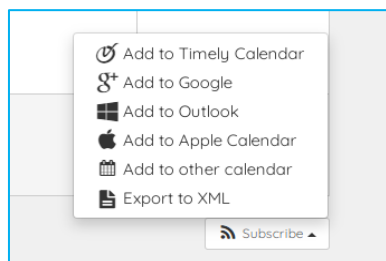
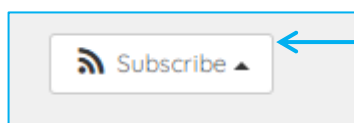
School Live Calendar

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 than you have on your phone and everything in our calendar with 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 always 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.



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

Did you know we're on Twitter – the social networking site? Subscribe and get daily 'live updates' about what's going on at school and 'behind the scenes' – and join in with the conversation **@TVInfants @TVIoffice**

www.twitter.com/TVInfants

Watch us on



Thames View Infants Television – on YouTube

We also have an extensive online archive of Top-Tips, Podcasts and other movies from our Academy over the last few years. Have a look at the "Our Best Days at Thames View Infants" showcase video. You could even search the archive and watch one of the other 300 videos we've made over the last few years.



Also keep an eye out for a special Reception You Tube video that our EYFS Leader, Adam Dobson, will be posting up later on this term. Adam will be talking about Literacy in Reception and all the ways in which you can be helping your child at home.

The School Pets

There is quite a movement in many schools to reintroduce the concept of school pets as a way of teaching children responsibility and providing a source of pleasure and of learning. We have had school pets at school for many years now and the children really benefit from seeing them in school: they are very-much part of the TVI family. We have a three-legged cat (Humphrey), several chickens (in a coop) and the School dog, Pear. As our Reception children get more settled into their routines, very carefully, we'll



introduce our pets to them. Pear is a gentle small doggy, with a very happy temperament. As an experienced dog owner, I have trained her and - of course - she goes home with me each night. All of the KS1 children know her well. Although she is largely based in my office, Pear loves to follow me around School, get stroked by the children and sit in with assemblies. Obviously a high level of thought and care behind the scenes has gone into such arrangements (there's even a



risk assessment available on our school website) to ensure that all the children (and the pets!) remain safe. If you would like to meet Humphrey, the chickens or Pear, - or have any questions about them - please let me know.

Reminders!



If something is not right, whatever it 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 polo shirts.



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



You'll need:

- a book bag
- slippers
- to take out any ear-rings and remove jewellery
- to download ParentMail PMX



All homework is available on our website.



Children require shorts and plimsolls for PE and they should keep their PE kit in school every day.



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 – please see attached school calendar dates (or you may be fined per child/per parent and even lose your school place!)



EVERYTHING is available online – so explore our website!



Tweet with us on [Twitter](#)



Use Parent Mail and check the app daily – or otherwise you will be stranded and in the dark!

My 14th year of headship will be great – we're all busy getting to know all our children, but please do pop in and say hello and, as always, thank you for your on-going support.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Jordan
Headteacher