

# 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;

We're living in unprecedented times and it's been an extraordinary 12 months since lockdown first started! I must thank you all for your trust, support and kind words. Behind the scenes, we've all worked incredibly hard to keep our children safe and to offer them the best learning provision possible.



Our online learning offer received acclaim. It made [headlines in the Barking and Dagenham Post](#) and was featured on [BBC London too](#). I'm really proud of how we came together at a very challenging time for us all.

Now that – at last – the road to national recovery seems reachable, our aim is to work flexibly and precisely together, to help restore missed learning opportunities for our children and to do the best that we can, to carefully prepare them for the next stage of their life-long learning journey.

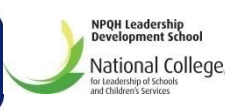
One day, eventually, we'll be able to fling the School doors wide-open and welcome you back with out-stretched arms in our own very special TVI way. But until then, we will use our newsletters, our "on the School gate" conversations and Twitter updates to keep you ahead of all the work we are doing to give your child the best start in life. Apologies then, for a slightly-longer-than-usual letter from me...

## Easter Bonnets and an In-House Parade!

Normally, at this time of the year, we would be inviting all of our families in to join in our annual Easter Bonnet Parade on the last day of term. Once again, sadly, we are unable to do this. However, we want to mark the occasion with our very own 'in-house' Easter Bonnet Parade around the School Grounds (keeping within our bubbles!)



We hope that you will support celebrating this traditional Christian Festival by helping your child decorate their own Easter Bonnet over the course of the next week- don't worry if you can't, as the children will also be making their own bonnets in class. [If you're new to our Easter Bonnet Parade, this is what it looked like a few years ago!](#)



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.

## Easter Lunch

The children will be having a special celebration Easter lunch next Wednesday. The menu will be:

*Roast Lamb or Vegetable and Lentil Wellington  
Served with  
Sage and Onion Stuffing & Baby Roast Potatoes,  
Baton Carrots and Steamed Broccoli*

*For desert:  
Easter Chocolate or Crispy Nest Cakes*

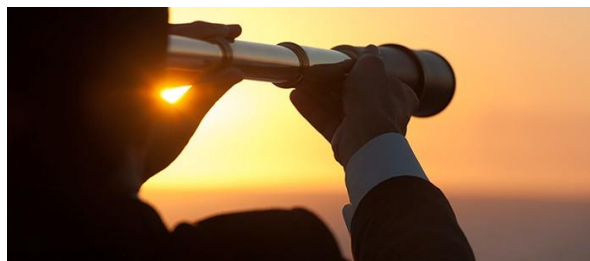
## Accelerated Learning for The Children



When we planned this School year way-back in June 2020, who would have imagined that there would have been a further wave of School closures in the Academic Year ahead and that we'd be operating within a system of 'bubbles'.

that we need to bridge as effectively as possible.

Working with the children closely and seeing and understanding their needs at this unprecedented time, we now need to carefully revise our provision, in order to ensure all children are best prepared for the next stage of their academic careers.



For example, **in the Nursery**, you will see that I have increased levels of staffing. We are advertising for more Midday Assistants because, we have identified that a large number of children **in Reception** need lots of support when communicating with each other and negotiating play. They need careful encouragement when trying new food and when manipulating knives and forks.

**In Year 1**, Rosa (my Assistant Head Teacher), will give intensive booster lessons with groups of children, to prepare them for Year 2 and the Year 2 Curriculum.

Our Year 2 seem to be the least affected by the lockdowns, yet are still behind where they would normally be at this time of year. In September, nobody could have imagined that children would have missed so much learning due to further lockdowns. Our system of 'bubbles' is likely to continue until the end of the Summer Term. Our Year 2 all deserve the best possible preparation for their transition into Year 3. Accordingly, I will use the Easter Holidays as a natural "firebreak", to reunite all of our **Year 2** pupils into the same 'bubble' and to reorganise staffing to support this process. Unprecedented times call for unprecedented measures. Our plans will give our Year 2 children an intensive yet carefully considered final term at Thames View Infants and will be closely-managed. (We're currently organising this and are consulting with the children. If you do have a child in Year





2 Hippos, we will write to you next week to confirm their new class details). Rabbits will also be returning to their original classes for the Summer Term.

(By the way, if you have a child in Year 2, over the course of the next month you will receive, via ParentMail, a letter confirming their Year 3 place at Thames View Juniors (unless of course you have applied for your child to go elsewhere)).



I'm also mindful that we should all need to meet together to tell you in person about children's progress and share with you what we're working on with our children and what we need support at home with. We will hold extra Parents' Meetings online in the last week of April for this purpose. Please book mark this time as currently, all of our children need as much help as possible to get back on track.

## Easter Holiday Club



If you have a KS1 child who is eligible for benefit-driven free school meals you will have already received a link to the Premier Education website where, you can book your child into an Easter Holiday Club at TVI. (This is part of a government initiative). The club will run from 10-2pm and will be free of charge for children who are entitled to benefit-driven free school meals. They will receive a hot meal during their time at this provision. The club will preserve our 'bubbles'.



We are hoping that Premier Education will have the capacity to open this club up, on a first come first served basis, to all of our children. As soon as we know more, we'll let you know via ParentMail.

## Wraparound Care?

We know that many of you are now back to work and so we are hoping to start offering an extended provision from May onwards. This would also be facilitated by Premier Education. Over the course of the next week we will be circulating an 'expression of interest' form on ParentMail. Please let us know. This is by no means a commitment – we simply want to get a rough idea of numbers so that we can start planning.



## Wednesdays "After the Break..."

For the time being, we will continue to close early on Wednesdays, so that my staff don't "cross bubbles" when covering classes for teachers' planning time. As soon as guidance allows, we'll resume Wednesday afternoons. Nursery will continue to remain open on Wednesdays.

## Next Week...

Next Thursday (1<sup>st</sup> April 2021) will be the **End of the Spring Term** and the children will be finishing earlier - at the below times. (We will not be closing early on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March!):

- Reception: 12:15pm
- Year 1, Hippos and Bumble Bees: 12:35pm
- Year 2: 12:55pm



Please note that the last day of term for Nursery will be on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

The first day of the Summer Term will be on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April** for all pupils.

## Homework

During the holidays, please hear your child read their reading book every single day (I'll be checking!!!) and practise their phonics/tricky words as often as possible.



In Reception, we really need you to help your child eat **independently** and with a knife and fork. Please try different food types. Please do not feed your child – it doesn't help!

We also really need the children to practise their communication and social skills. We are trying to encourage the children to speak in full sentences... please go on walks, read books and play games with your children over the holidays. Ask them lots of open questions about what they're doing and what they like / dislike. The more you engage your child in conversation, the better!

Mummies and Daddies (and Carers, too), you have your extra #FamilyLearningTogether Homework to do as well. Your Head of Year's weekly letter will give more details and we ask you to tweet a picture of it (if you can) - #MakingMemories.

## Every Lesson Matters

Thank you for doing your best to bring your child to school every day. **Sadly, on average, each child has missed at least 1 in 3 days of School due to self-isolation or lockdown.**

I'm mindful that, because of this pandemic, we've potentially a whole generation of families that are not used to or have forgotten the routine and regularity of '*coming to School everyday*'. As this pandemic passes, we will all have some essential work to do to instil this expectation within our community once more.



Did you know for example, that in a typical year, two-thirds of our children would have 100% attendance and on average, children would typically be absent for only half-a-day per month?

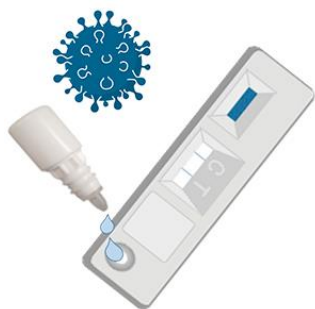
This is where I remind you that COVID-guidance aside, is a legal requirement that children attend School regularly. With so much to catch up on, more than ever, I need children in School every day (unless they are self-isolating or unwell).

Currently it is also illegal to travel. Please note that all family holidays must be taken during published school holidays and [this year's term dates can be found here](#).

The School will not grant permission for any family holidays in School time. If you take unauthorised leave you will risk:

- A Fixed Penalty Notice (a fine) per adult AND per child (even if other children attend a different school).
- Losing your child's school place.
- Re-registering with the Local Authority for a new school place.
- Your Family details passed to the Borough's Attendance Officer.

## Covid-19 Testing Over The Holidays



Over the break we still need you to continue testing both the children and yourselves for COVID-19 every week and we need you to register the results online.

- If you and your children are well and you're not displaying any symptoms, you should take a rapid Lateral Flow Test.
- If the person getting tested is unwell, you should get a PCR (walk-in) Test (as the Lateral Flow Tests are less reliable when symptoms are present).

Regular testing stops the asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19 and stops further closures. Through testing, many families have discovered COVID cases at home, without symptoms!

## How to get a COVID-test:

1. You can apply for a test online [by clicking this link here](#). This testing kit will then be posted to you for you to undertake and return via the Royal Mail. When you book your test you'll be asked some questions. Select the following options:
  - NO to essential worker
  - NO to having symptoms
  - NO to being part of a trial or pilot
  - YES - My local council or health protection team has asked me (or someone I live with) to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms
  - You can even book your whole family by choosing 'add family members'.
2. You can also book a test [by clicking on this link here](#) and get tested that same day.
3. You go to the pop-up testing centre in the car park of the Curzon Centre on Bastable Avenue.
4. You can apply online for a box of Lateral Flow COVID-tests [by clicking this link here](#).

What should I do if my child, or someone in our household, tests positive?



# PLEASE SUPPORT US!

If you receive a positive test result, have symptoms of COVID-19, or if you've had contact with someone who has, the law says you must self-isolate. If you have to isolate, you should start the 10-day self-isolation period straight away. During the Holidays, you should still **email me (stating your child's name, class & when symptoms started etc)** and attach a copy of the NHS notification.

## The Warmer Weather Is Coming!

Although it's only just turned Spring, the weather will soon start to get warmer. Children are really active whilst at school and wearing too many layers will overheat them and increase the chances of items of clothing getting lost.



### A few uniform reminders:

- Gingham summer dresses are not part of the school uniform.
- Please take the time over the Easter break in order to make sure that your child's name is clearly written in all items of their clothing.
- Children require a PE kit and this needs to be in school all week. Please make sure that you provide your child with a PE kit and a suitable PE bag.
- Please remember that no jewellery is allowed in school. This includes earrings.

## And there's more coming up after the break...

- St Georges Day – even though we can't do our usual Maypole Show, we'll be making sure that the children celebrate St George's Day in style on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. There will even be a special St Georges Day assembly for the children.
- The children will be holding their own Pupil-Headteacher elections in June – candidates from each year group will write manifestos and the winning parties will be in charge for a day!
- The KS1 playground will be getting repainted so that it's all sparkly and new for when the children return. There'll even be some lovely new log-seating for the children to use.
- We'll be buying new iPads for School. We'll be selling the old ones off on a 'first come, first served' basis via ParentMail.



•We've spent more than £1,000 on new reading books for the children.

•And, finally, we've also spent more than £1,000 on new playground toys for the children to play with outside.



In fact, there's lots to look forward to next term. As much as we will be spending Easter reflecting upon the last year and remembering loved ones that we may have lost, we will also look forward to the future and more certain times. Spring is the season of new beginnings and we are hopeful of the easing of restrictions and an eventual return to normality for us all.

We have a busy, fun filled week left before the Easter holidays and all of our staff will be working hard to make sure that our children continue to learn lots and enjoy the last few days of this term. As usual, we are always here to help and so, if you have any questions or worries at all, please talk to us.

We're always happy to help.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Jordan  
**Headteacher**



**DON'T FORGET TO  
SPRING FORWARD**

Remember to set your  
clocks ahead 1 hour on

28 March 2021

**HAPPY EASTER**

