

# Thames View Infants



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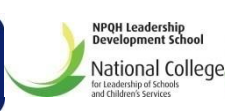
Dear Parents/Carers;

## Re-opening of School - FAQ

Thank you for all the support you have given us during the most recent lock-down. We are really looking forward to welcoming you and your back to School on Monday. Below is a very long email containing many FAQ, which we hope will answer most of the common queries that we've been getting this week.

However, here are the Headlines:

1. We're looking forward to seeing everyone back on Monday.
2. Don't forget to send your child to School with all of the completed home learning, for us to mark.
3. Don't worry if your child is anxious about the return, it will soon pass.
4. School is compulsory once more.
5. School will operate in the same way as before Christmas - except we'll be closing early on Wednesdays.
6. All of the Social Distancing Rules still apply (masks, groups of 6 etc) - even if you've already had a vaccine.
7. To protect us all (including your family too), we want you to arrange a weekly COVID-test for your child and your family each week at home. **Children (and adults) can still spread COVID without any symptoms. Weekly testing reduces this risk.**
8. We've extended our own "COVID-symptom" watch list.
9. Our home learning provision will resume for any Bubbles or Classes that are required to close.
10. Continuing to keep us all safe remains my priority.



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.

## We can't wait to see everyone back!

We've missed you all dearly and we can't wait to pick up where we left off before lockdown. Learning in School will be carefully geared to meet children's needs and all of my teachers will tailor lessons to support children in the best way possible. With your help, we'll all do everything that we can to secure and then accelerate children's academic learning and their physical and social & emotional growth as smoothly as possible. We're looking forward to meeting our children again and catching up with them, safely.

If your child is a little bit anxious about coming back to school after such a long break, please don't worry. Children will soon get into the routine of coming into School each day – we've planned for this and next week it will be 'all hands on deck' here at TVI. We're planning a lovely week for the children with lots of fun and time for playing and catching up with friends as well as lots of learning!

## Getting your child ready for School...

You can help your child get ready for the transition back to School:

- Share your excitement about returning to School.
- Talk to them about what they have missed and what they will be looking forward to.
- Together, collect up all of the home learning for them to hand in on Monday for marking. The teachers are all looking forward to seeing all of the lovely home learning that the children have been doing at home.
- Together, get your child's uniform ready for Monday. Uniform is compulsory for all year groups.
- Remember, from next Monday ALL children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will need to have their PE kits in school.
- Practice hand-washing and coughing into tissues/elbows.

## What will stay the same?

School will re-open with all of the same safety measures that we had in place during the Autumn Term. Although some of the Teaching Assistants will have changed, everything else we be just the same as it was before lockdown:

- Attendance at School will be compulsory.
- Children will continue to be taught in bubbles.
- The School Day will continue to operate with staggered opening times.
- My Staff will continue to wear Face Masks and Face Shields.
- All School Staff will continue to undertake COVID testing TWICE each week.
- Parents/Carers will not be allowed in School (sadly) and our Office service will be limited again.

## Attendance

School attendance will be statutory from 8th March onwards and at TVI we expect children to come to School every. Any absence, except for ill health, is discouraged.

You'll also remember that it's still against the law to travel on holiday (whether in the UK or abroad) at the moment – this applies both in term time and school holiday time.

As usual, if your child is unwell at all, please call the School Office on 020 8270 4317 for further advice before 9:30am.

Of course, if your child is presenting with any of the main symptoms of Coronavirus you will have to follow the rules, isolate and take your child for a PCR test. However, for extra safety, **we've extended the testing/self-isolation process to now include any sort of upper-respiratory illness (including sore throats, "sniffles and snuffles" etc) or stomach upsets.**

### **What are the school times when we come back?**

For the time being we are keeping the start and the finish to our School day staggered, as indeed it was before we entered this latest lockdown. In this way, we can reduce the number of people on site at any one time and keep our year group bubbles separate from one another. Just in case you need a reminder, these are the pick-up / drop-off times for the time being:

- Morning Nursery: 8:25am Drop-off and 11:25am Collection
- Afternoon Nursery: 12:10pm Drop-off and 3:10pm Collection
- Reception: 8:45am Drop-off and 3:05pm Collection
- Year 1 and Bumble Bees: 8:35am Drop-off and 2:55pm Collection
- Year 2: 8:55am Drop-off and 3:15pm Collection

Please continue to make an extra effort to both collect and drop your child off on time. When you are either too early or too late we are forced to 'cross contaminate' our bubbles, increasing the risk of bubble closures.

### **Closing early on Wednesdays...**

Similar to the Autumn Term, *just for the time-being*, we'll be closing early each Wednesday afternoon to allow teachers to prepare for the week ahead. I'm sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause, however, to reduce incidences of COVID within School, we must keep covering classes and crossing bubbles to an absolute minimum.

On Wednesdays (from 10.03.21), children will go home, after they've had a hot lunch at school, at the following times:

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

\*\*\* Please note that Nursery will remain open.

### **Weekly COVID tests for Children**

Earlier this week we sent you a letter from the Director of Public Health in Barking and Dagenham. Within this letter you will have seen that, for the time being, he is asking for all children and family

members to be tested for COVID-19 once a week. We would like all children and families members to be tested for COVID ahead of their return to School next week and each week thereafter.

Remember, children (and adults) can still spread COVID without any symptoms. Weekly testing reduces this risk and keeps more of us (including the vulnerable at home and your family) safer.

### Why do we want you to get tested?

We want to keep our School Community as safe as possible...please help us do this. We will all be getting tested and we really want you to do so too. By getting tested each week we are keeping each other safe and ensuring that we are all protected as much as possible.

1. All of my staff are being tested twice each week too.
2. Everyone doing so will ensure that the rate of transmission of COVID-19 in our community reduces.
3. It will nip any outbreaks of COVID-19 in the bud.
4. It will help prevent anyone who may be infectious coming to School and potentially starting an outbreak.
5. This will help us keep School open and reduce the chance that we'll have to close bubbles and/or classes.

### How to book a Test:

There are a number of ways that you can get COVID-tests for your household.

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 book your whole family by choosing 'add family members'.
1. You can also book a test [by clicking on this link here](#), go to a testing site, and get tested that same day.
2. You can pop into one of the local testing centres and get tested on the spot. There is a pop-up testing centre in the car park of the Curzon Centre on Bastable Avenue.
3. You can apply online for a box of lateral flow COVID-tests to be posted to you house [by clicking this link here](#).

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

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. It is also essential that you let us know at Thames View

Infants as soon as possible. During School hours you should call the School Office on 02082704317 and out of school hours, you will need to [email me \(stating your child's name, class & when symptoms started etc\)](#) and attach a copy of the NHS notification.

### **My child has tested positive recently, does s/he need to take another test?**

If your child has tested positive in the last 90 days, they should not take another test as the virus may still show in their system, even if they have recovered.

### **What if my family is already self-isolating?**

If you've been asked to self-isolate by the NHS Test and Trace Programme or by the Public Health Team you can still get tested by ordering a home testing kit. You still need to complete your period of self-isolation, even if you test negative as symptoms can take 10 days to show.

### **Will there be any further closures?**

We hope not, but there might be: as in all these matters, we are led by Government Regulations. Of course, we will close Bubbles if directed so by the Director of Public Health following a confirmed COVID-case. We might also close Classes should we incur staff shortages (due to staff self-isolating). In all these instances, our home-learning offer, will resume for the classes affected. **By weekly self-testing, you will be helping to reduce closures.**

### **Home Learning - what happens if I have to self-isolate?**

If we have to close a whole class or year group bubble, our online Twitter lessons will resume, just as they have been during lockdown.

However, if your child has to isolate (and the rest of their bubble in school is still open), we will offer you the below provision:

1. By the second day of the absence, you will receive via ParentMail a pack of homework for your child to complete at home. (We'll provide a paper-based version for you to collect by arrangement).
2. Each day, your child will be required to attend a special zoom lesson with a dedicated senior Teaching Assistants.
3. Twice a week you will receive a mentoring home learning phone call, from a nominated Teaching Assistant. They will check in on you all and answer any learning questions and offer support.
4. When they return to School, they'll bring in their completed home learning for us to mark.

**Once again, remember, weekly self-testing help to reduce closures.**

### **Can Parents / Carers come on site?**

Sadly, no. Not yet.

Although we can all see the "light at the end of the tunnel", we're not there yet and so it's



important to be wise and tread cautiously. We're aware that there have been some very sad losses within our community and we will all know someone that has been poorly. Accordingly, more than ever, I need you to do your bit to follow the law and the measures we're putting in place to keep everyone safe. We will continue to report incidences of non-compliance to the Police; please help us avoid having to do this.

Whilst dropping-off / collecting your children from school, please can we ask that you continue to follow the following guidelines:

1. Please don't linger around - we need to keep the numbers of adults onsite as low as possible at all times.
2. Please ensure that you are wearing a face covering at all times when you pass through the blue school gates onto our premises.
3. Please socially distance yourself as much as possible from each other when doing the school run. You should keep a minimum of 2m away from each other.
4. Please do not gather in groups of 6 or more.
5. At present we are only allowing one adult per family to do the school drop-off / pick-up. This is because we need to limit the number of adults onsite.
6. Please understand if my staff or I talk to you about following these rules.

We really appreciate your understanding in the above. It is essential that we all follow these guidelines and adhere to the rules in order to keep your children, yourselves and our staff as safe as possible.

**And finally,..... we'll see you soon!**

I must thank you for all of your kind words and compliments over the last couple of months. Like you, I am hoping that in the months that follow, everyone will see a general easing of restrictions. But until then, we must all do our bit to continue to follow the guidance and to keep everyone as safe as possible.

I cant wait to see all of our children back.

*Thank you for your support and here's to a happy Monday!*

Best wishes,



Paul Jordan,  
**Headteacher.**