

Thames View Infants



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3rd September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers;

Welcome Back to School!

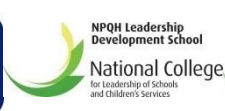


We hope you've enjoyed the summer with your children. It's great to be getting back to the old normal and wonderful to see everyone back at school. The children are settling well into their classes and there's a really happy atmosphere in school. I believe that our Academy continues to offer an Outstanding provision for our children and families and I look forward to building upon all of our previous year's successes. As I start my 15th year of Headship at TVI, I remain at your service to lead your child through a very successful year with us.

This year – we hope – will be truly special. There will be exciting educational visits for the

children, theatre groups, bring-and-buy sales, community events, dancing, swimming lessons for our Year 2 children, fun days, open days, come-and-join in sessions (cooking, sports and learning-based), pantomimes, maypole dancing, cinema visits, attendance assemblies, a summer fayre and lots and lots of opportunities for you to come in and see our Outstanding Provision for yourselves at first hand.

We understand that all this will be new to many of you and so we'll be there to help welcome you back. It's been such a long time since we were truly normal!



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're opening on the most recent Governmental Guidance that all Schools are following. As always, keeping everyone safe remains our priority.

What's Different This Year?

- There'll be far more School events, as detailed above.
- There'll be no more staggered starts, with the School Day starting at 8:55 and ending at 3:15 (Nursery timings are 8:45-11:45 & 12:30-3:30).
- There'll be no need to wear masks on the premises when outside.
- We'll be inviting you into School (although you'll still need to wear masks for the time-being and scan our QR code to get in).
- Our Bubbles have ended too - at last, our children will eat, play and attend assemblies together again.
- The rules for self-isolation have changed also: since 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace or if they are a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case (at Home or at School) or whilst awaiting the results of their PCR test where they have been a close contact.

What's The Same This Year?

- The School will continue to have an increased cleaning regime and we'll maintain good ventilation.
- We're keeping the one-way system outside (without masks!) as that helps prevent congestion at the gates.
- We still need you to enter School via the Front Office only and wear a mask when you do come in.
- We ask you to continue testing everyone twice-a-week, please and notify us if your child is positive.
- Children with COVID-symptoms will be sent home/asked to self-isolate home and take a PCR (walk-in centre) test.
- School continues to be compulsory.
- Parents' Meetings will take place online only (as families told us they found this arrangement convenient).
- To keep everyone safe, we'll continue to report any incidents of non-compliance to the Police and/or Social Services as appropriate.

Should I Expect School To Close At All?

We hope not but, at this stage, we cannot tell. Governmental guidance may also change. We do know, that should cases rise, local health officials can use their powers to implement further special measures. If we ever have severe staff shortages, we may have to close and should that be the case, we'll tell you here via ParentMail asap. Where there are closures, our online offer via Twitter and/or Teams will resume once more.

Here are some important messages and “top tips” to help us all settle back in to school...

School Uniforms Please!

I wanted to remind you that we ask for all children to wear one of our school-branded shirts, which are available to purchase via ParentMail, in six vibrant colours. We do not want children to wear any other types of shirt/top whatsoever. The children designed the t-shirts themselves several years ago now and are still very excited about wearing them. Please do support us in this initiative. We also sell PE kit, school jumpers, cardigans and book bags.

If you have purchased uniform over the Summer and are waiting for your order to be fulfilled, please rest assured that my staff are endeavouring to process these orders asap. As soon as your order is ready we will pop it on your child's peg ready for them to take home.



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, please make sure that children's names are written in all items of clothing. Lost property can be located in our front office.



Thank you for continuing **not** to bring your child to school wearing jewellery. If your child does have earrings, **please take them out.** Earrings, if pulled or caught, can result in a nasty tear. Please help us with this.

PE Kits

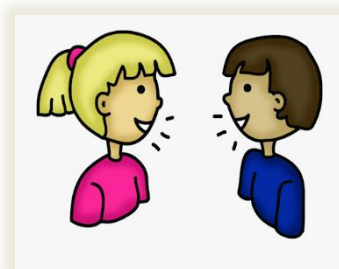
All children undertake 2 hours of high-quality PE in school each week. Throughout the year, they are taught PE in two weekly lessons – developing vital Gymnastics, Games, Dance and (in Year 2) Swimming skills. **Children require a PE kit and this needs to be in school all week. Please make sure you provide 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.

Year 2 children will be attending swimming lessons as part of their PE curriculum; Snakes and Owls have their lessons this term and Foxes have theirs in the Spring. If your child is in Snakes or Owls please make sure that your child's swimming kit is in school and ready for use.

It's Good To Talk!

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

In October, you'll have the chance to formally meet online with your child's class teacher, via ZOOM, at our Autumn Term Parents' Meetings. Dates for these will soon be available via the ParentMail App.



Coming To School Every-Day!

Please remember all of the ways that we can help support your child coming to school everyday – including administering most medicines at school, keeping a 'special eye' on them when they are 'under the weather' and watching out for them at lunchtime. Please continue to call, e-mail or text the school (by 10am) in order to report an absence on each and every day of your child being poorly. Attendance in our school is amongst the highest of all Primary Schools within Barking and Dagenham and, this year, we want to build upon this further. Remember, you should not book family holidays during school time – are terms dates may be found online here:



<https://thamesviewinfants.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021-22-Calendar-vFinal.pdf>

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.

Would You Like To Volunteer in School?

We're looking for some parent helpers in school and we'd love it if you could spare some time to help. We're looking for people who can commit to regular days and times every week and who have a passion for helping our all of our children do the very best that they can.



If this sounds like you, please complete the 'Parent Volunteer Application' form which will go live in ParentMail this week. Once the children have settled into school we will then shortlist applicants for these volunteer roles and, if you have been successful, you will be invited into school for a brief,

informal interview. Successful applicants will receive a full induction before starting and will be DBS checked.

Please note that Parent Volunteers do not help in their own child's class.

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, our Family Support Advisor, Emma Murphy, and myself are always here to listen: come and talk to us and we'll see what we can do, together, to put things right.



Code of Conduct

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.



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, @ClaireTVI, @TVIOffice

Paul tweets #HeadteachersUpdates every week on Twitter within which you can hear all of the latest news about what's been happening in school and find out what's coming up soon. Don't miss out - tune in and find out what's happening in school this week!

www.twitter.com/TVInfants

Watch us on



Thames View Infants Television – on YouTube

We have an extensive online archive of Top-Tops, 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.



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 slap a child around the face, 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 doesn't 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

We are delighted to confirm that our KS1 Breakfast Club for this term will be starting on 20th September. Breakfast Club is prioritised for the children of working parents and, if you would like your child to attend, you must complete the form that is currently in ParentMail.

Breakfast Club costs £2 per day and payment for the entire term must be paid in advance, via ParentMail. Please note that the deadline for completing this form is 9am on 8th September following which you will be sent an invoice which will then need to be paid by 15th September.



If you are considering Breakfast Club for your child, please read the 'terms and conditions' set out in the ParentMail form very carefully so that you are aware of all of our Breakfast Club rules!

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 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 shorts and plimsolls for PE and they should keep their PE kit in school everyday.



Children require their book bag everyday 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 it every day!

I'm really looking forward to my 15th year at TVI and I know it's going to be a very successful one. We're all busy getting to know all our children anew, but please do pop in and say hello and, as always, thank you for your on-going support.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Jordan
Headteacher