

Thames View Infants



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We YouTube @TVInfants

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Dear Parents/Carers;

Welcome to Reception at Thames View Infants!



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 all of our children in School. Our Reception children are settling well into their classes and there's a really happy atmosphere.

As you've probably heard, we are a very special Academy. I do my best to ensure 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 for our children and families. I look forward to meeting you and building upon all of our previous years

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 will be a really special year. 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, first hand.



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

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

What We're Doing To Stay Covid-Safe In School

- There'll be no need to wear masks on the premises when outside. However, whenever you come into our school building you'll still need to wear masks for the time-being and scan our QR code to get in past the Office.
- The School has an increased cleaning regime and we maintain good ventilation at all times.
- We have a one-way system outside as that helps prevent congestion at the gates.
- When you come into school, we need you to enter the premises via the front office only and wear a mask when you do come in.
- We kindly ask that you test everyone in your household for Covid, twice-a-week, using lateral flow tests. Please and notify us asap if your child is positive. Lateral flow test kits are free to order online or pick up in the local pharmacy or Covid testing centre.
- Children with COVID-symptoms will be sent home/asked to self-isolate home and take a PCR (walk-in centre) test.
- To keep everyone safe, we'll continue to report any incidents of non-compliance to the Police and/or Social Services as appropriate.

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.

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 Zoom will resume once more.

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

ParentMail



ParentMail...

ParentMail is compulsory for all of our Parents / Carers. We do not send out any paper copies of letters at all. It is essential that you check your ParentMail for messages from school regularly since this is our primary method of communication.

You will need ParentMail in order to:

- Purchase uniform
- Read all of the newsletters / messages and communications from School
- Book parent meetings
- Pay for school visits and give your consent for school visits
- Complete any forms that we need you to return.
- To apply for any wraparound care for your child, including breakfast club and after school clubs (once your child is eligible for these clubs).
- To receive our weekly Learning Newsletters for Reception.

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.

School Dinner Taster Session For Parents / Carers...



You are invited to join us in school on **Friday 24th September at 2:30pm** in order to partake in a school dinner taster session. Violet, our School Cook, will be making a variety of dishes for you to sample so that you can see for yourself the wonderful selection of foods available for the children each day. We have a variety of hot meals, a selection of sandwiches, vegetarian and halal options, delicious desserts and a varied salad bar every single

day.

Please help us by completing this LBBD form...

Children in infant school automatically receive free school meals. However, some of our children will continue to receive free school meals after they have left our school. These children are eligible for what is known as 'benefit driven free school meals'.

Although you won't necessarily benefit from completing this form so early, if you do complete this form, and you are eligible for this benefit, you would really be helping our school. We receive extra funding for any children whose parents are eligible for this benefit and have completed this online form.

Every single penny of this extra funding that we receive is spent on the children – on ensuring that they have lovely resources to use in school, new reading books, exciting days out and as rich and varied a curriculum as possible.

Please help us by taking 5 minutes out of your day, click on the link below and complete this online form...if you are not eligible for the benefit nothing will be lost, but if you are eligible you will be really helping us – Thank you!

[Financial support for pupils and students | LBBD](#)

School Uniforms Please!

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. Our children designed the t-shirts themselves several years ago now and are still very excited about wearing them. We also sell PE kit, school jumpers, cardigans and book bags.



This is our busiest time of the year for uniform orders. However, despite this we are still managing to turn most uniform orders around in just a day or so...So if you place an order on ParentMail for uniform, you can expect your child to be coming home with their uniform in a shopping bag within a couple of days.

A Few Uniform Reminders

- Please note that uniform is only purchasable via ParentMail and cannot be bought or collected from the School Office.
- We are flexible with uniform in Reception for the first week. However, **Please also note that from next week – uniform is COMPULSORY!**
- Please can we also ask that you clearly label all items of clothing that your child brings into school with both their full name and class



- 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.



- We have a '**No Jewellery**' policy in School and this includes earrings. 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...

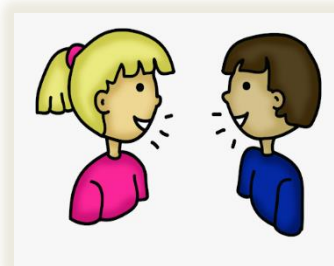
All children undertake 2 hours of high-quality PE in school each week. Throughout the year, they are taught PE in two weekly lessons – developing vital Gymnastics, Games, Dance and (in Year 2) Swimming skills. Children require a PE kit and this needs to be in school all week. **Please make sure you provide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



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!

Attendance in Reception is COMPULSORY. Children need to be in school, and on time, every single day.

If your child is unwell, there are many 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.

However, if your child is so unwell that they cannot come into school, it is your responsibility to call 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.



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 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 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.



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), 5 hens (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 hens or Pear, - or have any questions about them - please let me know.

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.



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](#) and make sure that you watch Paul's weekly [#HeadteachersUpdates](#)



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