

# Thames View Infants



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

Paul Jordan Headteacher  
Paul.Jordan@Thamesviewinfants.org

Rosa Corcoran-Jones Deputy Headteacher  
Rosa.Corcoran-Jones@Thamesviewinfants.org

Adam Dobson Deputy Headteacher  
Adam.Dobson@Thamesviewinfants.org

Office@TVIacademy.org  
ThamesViewInfants.org  
We Tube @TVInfants

14<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers;

## Welcome to Reception at Thames View Infants!

We hope you have enjoyed the summer with your children. It's great to see everyone at School. I am pleased to report that our new Reception children are settling well into their classes and there is a very happy atmosphere everywhere.



As you've probably heard, we are a very special Academy. I do my best to make sure that we offer the very 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 all of our previous years 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, my Deputy Headteachers 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. ParentMail is compulsory for our parents and it is our primary method of communication.



You will need ParentMail in order to:

- Receive all of our newsletters and information on what's going on in school.
- To buy uniform – this is the **ONLY** place that you can buy our uniform.
- To apply for school-run After School Clubs for your children (when they start later on this term).
- To provide consent for your child to go on any School Visits.
- To book Parent Teacher Meetings – the first set for this year will be in October.
- To pay for School Visits.

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. 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!

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.
- 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 Uniforms Please!

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 six vibrant colours, all priced £6 each. **We do not want children to wear any other types of shirt/top whatsoever.** The children designed the T-shirts themselves several years ago and they are still very excited about wearing them. Please do support us in this initiative. We also sell the PE kit too. All children will need a pair of **household slippers**, to keep their feet warm in class – it's nice for them and makes School feel homely.



To purchase uniform please log in to ParentMail, click on PAYMENTS and then on SHOP. You will then see all of the items that are available for you to purchase from School at this present time.

Once you have placed your order we will then fulfil it asap. Normally this only takes us a few days. However, we are sure that you can appreciate that this is our busiest time of the year and so we would kindly ask that you give us up to a week to turn your orders around at the start of term.

When your order has been fulfilled it will be delivered to class and your child will come out with it at the end of the school day. You will receive an email notification to let you know on the day.

**Please note that we allow children to wear their own clothes in Reception for the first two weeks of term. However, ideally, we would like children to be in our uniform as soon as possible. By the third week of term school uniform will be compulsory.**



## 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 chance of items of clothing getting lost.

## Please Label Everything

Please make sure that children's names are written in all items of clothing. Please also label your child's book bag clearly with their name and class. Lost property can be located in the main hall.



## Jewellery

Please note that jewellery is not allowed in school at all and this includes earrings. If your child wears earrings, please take them out. Earrings, if pulled or caught, can result in a nasty tear. If your child comes into school wearing earrings they will be removed and handed back to the adult collecting your child at the end of the day.

## PE Kits

All children 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, 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 shortly to tell you when your child's PE lessons will be.

## 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.

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

## Coming to School Every-day!

Attending Reception every day is compulsory and we want to work with you to ensure that your child comes in every single day – we will work with you to make sure that this happens as much as possible including administering medicine 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 *too* poorly to come into School then we need you to call, e-mail or text the school (by 10am). You will need to do this on each and every day of your child being unwell. Last year our attendance was one of the highest of all Primary Schools within Barking and Dagenham and, this year, we want to build upon this further.

Not attending school regularly can be very damaging to a child's education. Statistically, it is the children with more than 97% attendance that go on to get better exam grades and are more likely to get a professional job later in life. In addition, children find it increasingly more difficult to 'catch-up' with work they have missed if they are absent regularly.

In our experience, children with poor attendance have trouble feeling included within school life and tend to have difficulties forming friendships.

Finally, remember, you should NEVER book family holidays during school time. Family Holidays during Term Time will *never* been authorised and you run the risk that you will receive a fine from the Local Authority per adult, per child as well as having your child removed from our school roll. Our term dates can be found here:

[www.thamesviewinfants.org/news-events/term-dates/](http://www.thamesviewinfants.org/news-events/term-dates/)

## First and Surnames

At TVI we want our children to know our 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 that your child has a very successful academic year with us. We strive to provide the best education for all of 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 of 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 my Deputy's 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 Professional and DSL) and Suzy Waters (our SENCO and Inclusion Leader) are always around in school to help too and they will be sending out more information shortly.





My staff are all very dedicated 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 will not tolerate any threatening, prejudiced, 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 most keen to avoid, so please - for the well-being of your child's education

## 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 X (previously called 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](#) and [@TVIOffice](#)

Watch us on



### Thames View Infants Television – on YouTube

We 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.



## Safeguarding Obligations

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 any other Social Media platform 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 in such a way that it leaves a mark. It is your legal responsibility to make sure that people looking after your child don't do this either. If a child happens to disclose this to us, which they often willingly do, then

it's our responsibility to seek advice from Social Services in the first instance and then follow *their* lead.

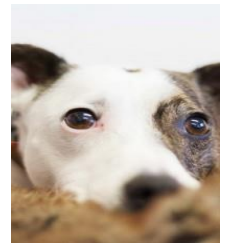
- It's also your responsibility to send your children to School every day and punctually too. Children who miss approximately, on average, a half-day a week (i.e. with attendance lower than 90%) will have their details passed to the Local Authority and reported to the DfE as a Persistent Absentee. This 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 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 earrings and remove all jewellery



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 our 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!

 Join in the conversation with us on X

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

We are looking forward to another great year here at TVI. We're all busy getting to know the children, but please do pop in and say hello and, as always, thank you for your on-going support.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Jordan  
*Headteacher*