

Thames View Infants



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[ThamesViewInfants.org](https://www.ThamesViewInfants.org)

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Dear Parents/Carers;

Welcome to Thames View Infants – Key Information for New Families



Welcome to Thames View Infants!

We are absolutely delighted to welcome you and your child to the Thames View Infants family. It has been such a lovely start to the year, and we have been so pleased to see how beautifully all of the children have settled into Reception. Our classrooms are already full of smiles, laughter and busy learners. The children are playing happily together, beginning to make new friendships and growing in confidence as they get to know their teachers, their classmates and their new school.

There is so much to discover during these first few weeks, and we know that starting school is a big milestone for both children and their families. We want you to feel welcomed, supported and part of our school community from the very beginning. Thames View Infants is a very special school, and we believe passionately that every child deserves the very best start in life. We work hard to help every child, and their family, feel valued, supported and able to achieve their very best.

This is my 20th year as Headteacher, and over the years I've had the privilege of learning so much about supporting our youngest children as they begin their school journey. I've put together a series of short, bite-sized videos sharing some of the things we've learnt along the way, with practical ideas and advice to help you and your child as they grow and develop through their time at School. I hope you find them useful — [click here to view the playlist.](#)



There will be lots more information and opportunities to get to know us over the coming weeks, but for now, we have put together some of the most important things you need to know to help you and your child settle happily into school.



A Little Bit About Thames View Infants...

Thames View Infants is a very special school, and we are incredibly proud of our caring and committed staff and the high standards we set for every child. We are a high-performing, inclusive Academy and have been judged **Outstanding by Ofsted three times in a row**. [Click here to read the report!](#)



Our leadership team, including the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher, are very much part of school life and teach across the school, working alongside staff and children every day. We are also fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteer Governors, known as our LAB, who help us continually improve our curriculum, learning and pupil voice. If you would like to find out more about becoming involved with our LAB later this year, please speak to me.

Watch our [“Every Day Matters”](#) video to get a feel for what life at Thames View Infants is like!

Parent App – Arbor

- We use **Arbor** for *all* school communications and it is essential **for both parents to have a login to Arbor**.
- We recommend using **the Arbor Parent App** on your mobile. Please [click here](#) for a step-by-step guide on how to get set up on Arbor if you haven't already activated your account.
- If you have any problems with Arbor, please pop in and we'll do our best to help.



You will need Arbor to:

- Receive newsletters, weekly learning summaries and event updates.
- Receive in-app messages from us – for instance – ‘Bumped Head Notifications’ and reminders.
- Buy uniform and PE kit.
- Give consent for your child to go on School visits.
- Sign your child up for after-school clubs.
- Book Parent-Teacher meetings (the first set are in **November**).
- Pay for School Visits and Clubs.

✦ Arbor is essential. Without Arbor you'll miss essential information.



We also use **BlueSky** for informal, behind-the-scenes updates:

👉 [Follow us here](#)

These videos help you and your child “Reception Ready” – **there's lots of helpful advice here:**

[Bedtime Routines](#), [Developing Independence](#), [Developing Speaking/Listening skills](#), [What to do at Hometime](#), [Developing Resilience](#), [Regulating Play & Emotions](#), [Fussy Eating](#) and [Being Reception Ready](#).

Attendance – Every Day Matters

- Reception is a **very important year** – daily attendance is vital.
- We support your child's well-being with:
 - Administering medication where needed
 - Keeping a watchful eye if they feel unwell
 - Encouraging positive attendance routines
- If absent, contact us on **020 8270 4317 (option 1)** by **9:30am each day**. Do not email.
- We reward good attendance and more information will follow.
-  [Download our Term Dates](#)



- ✗ **Don't be late** – children enter School at 8:45am. (But arrive earlier at 8:40 to meet the teacher).
- ✗ **No term-time holidays** – these will not be authorised. You might risk losing your school place.

Absence without good reason, or arrival later than 9:15am, will be recorded as unauthorised in line with DfE legislation.

 [Check and sync our School calendar here](#)

!!! If you have a family emergency, let us know at your earliest convenience.

Pupils with **97%+ attendance** do best academically and socially.
Below 90% = **Persistent Absentee** – reported to the DfE.

[Click here](#) to watch my video explaining all about attendance percentages and what they mean.

Parents as Partners

We believe the very best learning happens when parents and teachers work together. Getting to know your child's class teacher and building that connection from the start can make such a positive difference, and our teachers are always happy to have a quick chat with you at drop-off or pick-up. Good communication really matters to us, and I've made 3 short videos explaining why — [click here](#), [here](#) and [here](#) to watch.

What Your Child Needs

- A **school-branded polo shirt** (£7 each – 6 colours available).
- **PE kit** and **book bag** – both available via Arbor.
- **Indoor slippers** to keep feet warm in class and **wellies** for outside.
- Please ensure all items are **clearly labelled**. [Click here](#) for my video on how to avoid lost uniform!
- No jewellery or earrings are allowed in School.
- Most children **don't need jumpers** until the weather changes.
- **Pre-loved alternatives** are available via the School Office



✦ Children may wear their own clothes during **Weeks 1 & 2** only.

✦ From **Week 3 onwards**, uniform is compulsory.



Uniform shopping list & info:

👉 [Visit our Uniform Page](#) which includes:

- Full uniform checklist
- Links to **two non-branded Asda polos** (cheaper alternatives)

🕒 After-School Wraparound Care (Until 6PM)



- Our after-school provision is run by **Premier Education**, we advise to start **Week 3**.
- Available daily until 6:00PM.
- Book here:
👉 [After School Club Booking Form](#)
- Other **enrichment-School Clubs** (until 4pm) – run by School Staff will start later on this term.

🏃 PE & Physical Development

- Our Reception children have one PE session every week covering Gymnastics, Dance, and Games.
- Your child's PE kit should be kept in school **all week**.
- PE starts later on this term for our Reception children.

🍽️ School Meals – Free for All

- All Reception children receive **free school meals**.
- We give support where children need it, and [run lunch club for reluctant eaters](#).
- 👉 [Check out the menu here](#). All meat served is Halal.
- BUT... if you're on a **low income**, you may also be eligible for **Pupil Premium**.



Why this matters:

- If eligible, the School receives an **extra £1,320 per child** from the government.
- This funds **extra teaching staff, tuition, and after-school activities**.

Check your eligibility & apply here:

👉 [Free School Meals & Pupil Premium Info](#)

School Dinner Taster Session for Reception Parents! Friday 18th September 2:00pm

Our school catering team, **Olive Dining**, have created a delicious menu for the children. We always receive lots of positive feedback from both children and staff, and it's wonderful to see so many clean plates every day!



We would love for you to come and sample some of the delicious food that Olive Dining will be preparing for your child each day.

You are warmly invited to our Parent Taster Session:

 **Friday 18th September**  **2:00pm**

 **Please enter via the school office, where a member of staff will sign you in.**

This is a great opportunity to meet the team, try some of the menu items, and see first-hand the quality of the food being served in school.

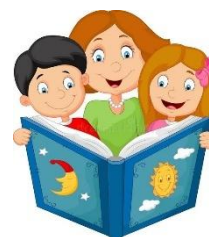
Please note that this taster session is exclusively for parents and carers of children currently in Reception and Full Time Nursery.

We would love to see you there! 😊

Learning & Progress

Every child is different, and we take great care to make sure that learning is individualised to each child's strengths, needs and stage of development. Our flexible groupings mean that children are given the right level of challenge and support, and we are very proud to be among the highest-attaining Infant Schools nationally.

There are lots of ways you can support your child at home, and your child's teacher will be very happy to suggest ideas or resources. Most importantly, please try to spend just [five minutes reading together every evening](#) using your child's school reading book — this small, regular routine makes such a difference. Each week, your child's teacher will also share a short summary of what the children have been learning and what they will be exploring the following week. You can also find our [Reception curriculum online here](#), so you can see what your child is learning and talk about it together at home.



Please click for my videos on [Homework](#) and [Reading](#) at Thames View Infants.

School Pets



We're lucky to have seven chicken and our little (elderly) school dog, Pear, as part of the Thames View Infants community. They bring lots of joy to school and provide wonderful opportunities for children to learn about kindness, care and responsibility. As the children settle into school, we gradually introduce them to our animals in a calm and gentle way.

Safeguarding & School Conduct

- **Social Media:** No child under 13 should be on platforms like Facebook / Tik Tok / You Tube.
- **Playground Safety:** Parents or childminders must **stay with children** until they enter School. Never leave them at the gate.
- **Reminder:** We are obliged to report any disclosures to **Social Services** and then **follow their lead**.



Respecting Staff & Others

We are always here to listen and support you, so if you have a question, concern or something you're unsure about, please come and talk to us directly. Sometimes information can get passed on incorrectly, so rather than relying on second-hand information, please check with us — [if it doesn't sound right, it's always best to ask!](#)

Our Inclusion Officer, Inclusion Lead and SENDCO are also here to support families, with Emma Murphy also serving as our Designated Safeguarding Lead. We ask that all conversations with our staff are respectful and in line with our Code of Conduct; aggressive, threatening or inappropriate behaviour towards staff may result in a ban from the school premises.

Quick Daily Checklist

-  Use Arbor (check it daily).
-  Watch our [Playlist](#) – and subscribe for regular updates!
-  Book bag and labelled slippers every day.
-  Wear uniform from Week 3 (buy via Arbor or see uniform page).
-  PE kit must stay in school all week.
-  No earrings or jewellery.
-  Label everything.
-  No term-time holidays – fines may apply.
-  After-school care bookable via [Premier Education](#)
-  Apply for **Pupil Premium** if eligible – [check here](#)
-  Sync your calendar with ours: [term dates page](#)
-  Follow us on **BlueSky**: [@tvinfants.bsky.social](#)

We're looking forward to a fantastic year of learning and your partnership.

Please say hello in the playground and keep in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Jordan
Headteacher