



## Returning to school

### Parent Information guide

As we prepare to return to school, following the school closure due to lockdown, we expect that you have many questions about how the school will operate and how the school is endeavouring to keep your child safe.

Below we have set out the measures that we have taken and what will be required of you and your child if they are attending school.

### **What changes has the school made to make sure there is a reduced risk of infection?**

There are many changes that have had to be made to make sure that the school is ready for the children's return. A detailed risk assessment has been completed which addresses directly the risks associated with Covid-19. Measures have been put in place to minimise those risks for pupils and staff as follows;

- making sure that children and staff do not attend if they or a member of their household has symptoms of coronavirus
- promoting regular hand washing for 20 seconds with running water and soap or use of sanitiser and ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the catch it, bin it, kill it approach. Children will be asked to wash their hands on arrival to school, after every break and before and after eating. They will then be asked to wash them before going home.
- Cleaning more frequently to get rid of the virus on frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, handrails, table tops, play equipment and toys. Soft furnishings and some toys and play equipment will be removed to reduce further risk.
- Minimising contact through smaller classes or group sizes and altering the environment as much as possible, such as changing the layout of classrooms. In Reception and year 1 there will be no more than 10 children to the class with one teacher and Learning Support Assistant, where necessary. In year 6 there will be no more than 15 children to a class with one class teacher.
- reducing mixing between groups through timetable changes, such as staggered break times or by introducing staggered drop-off and collection times
- The School office will remain closed. Parental contact should be made via calls and email to which we will respond as soon as possible. The only exception will be to drop off late children or collect children who are ill. A member of the office staff will collect or lead a sick child to the door to meet

their parent/carer. All staff have completed, Infection and Prevention Control training.

- There will be no visitors to the school who would have had any interaction with the children until further notice.
- All soft furnishings will be removed from the classrooms, along with some equipment that is unable to be cleaned daily.
- Each child will have their own tray of essential equipment, such as pencils, ruler, sharpener etc.
- Desks will be spaced 2 metres apart around the class and there will be only one child to a desk.
- There will be no PE.
- Children will eat their lunch in their classrooms with their class LSA or teacher and they will then be allowed to have some physical exercise outside but remaining in their class group. There will be no ball games or interactive games.
- Reception children will still have access to some outdoor learning and a play-based curriculum, however there will be a stringent sanitisation plan for all equipment used.
- The school keeps up to date with and applies advice issued by, but not limited to, the following:
  - DfE
  - NHS
  - Department of Health and Social Care
  - PHE
  - The school's local health protection team (HPT)

### **Which year groups will be able to attend school?**

Reception, year 1 and year 6 will have the option to return to school. This is not compulsory, and we respect parent/carer decisions if they choose not to send their child back to school at this stage.

In addition, the children of key workers and those that are considered vulnerable or have an EHCP will still be able to attend if no alternative childcare is available.

### **What time will my child start and finish school?**

The time that your child starts and finishes the school day will depend on the class that they are in. Once this is confirmed you will receive an email stating the timings and entrances for you to use. Children will be able to attend Monday to Friday.

### **Will my child have to wear school uniform?**

To ensure that we reduce the spread or risk of infection, we will be asking parents to make sure that their child's clothes are washed daily at 40 degrees and preferably as soon as they get home. We do not expect children to be in uniform but would ask that the clothing that they wear is suitable for school with suitable footwear.

Children must not bring toys or items from home in order to avoid any contamination.

### **Will my child be able to have a school meal?**

All Year 6 pupils attending school on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June will require a packed lunch. This can be ordered in the usual manner in the classroom on arrival. Reception and Year 1 pupils are entitled to a school lunch under the Universal Offer. This will be provided if required in the form of sandwiches/fruit/yoghurt as hot meals cannot be provided due to the requirement that children will eat within their class base.

Free school meal packs for all year groups are being provided at the start of each week and should be used to provide a meal for children in school.

### **What happens if my child is ill or requires first aid?**

Any first aid or medical needs which do not allow for social distancing will be carried out with full PPE (gloves, apron and mask). If a child becomes unwell, they will be removed to a separate room immediately. Staff will support your child but in full PPE. Parents/carers will be contacted to immediately collect their child from school.

### **Will staff and pupils be expected to wear PPE at all times?**

No; research has shown that this isn't an effective use of PPE. Staff will wear PPE if they have to have close contact with a child to manage first aid or support an unwell child. Staff will also wear some PPE when opening and closing the gates to the children. Children will not need to wear PPE.

### **What will my child be learning at school?**

Like you, we want to make sure that children are accessing the curriculum and continuing to make progress. However we are also very aware that the circumstances that we find ourselves in has had an impact on all of our mental health and emotional well-being. With this in mind, we will be having a focus on the children's wellbeing and mental health, working closely with the Mental Health Support Team in Thurrock who will be advising and supporting the school and wider community.

### **Behaviour for Learning**

Children will be expected to follow the rules of social distancing. This will mean that children who are not able to adhere to the school policy will not be able to attend school until a further risk assessment deems it safe to do so.

### **Key Worker group,**

This emergency childcare is still being maintained as per the government guidance. However, if your child is in one of the year groups identified by the government as

being required to attend school (Reception, year one or year six), then your child will leave the key worker group and join their year group bubble. Please note that if you would like to use this provision the school will require 2 days notice.

### **Accessing school grounds**

Parents/carers will not be able to wait on school grounds; they must drop their child and leave immediately adhering to the signage in the playground of 2 metres distance.

If your child is in year six then parents/carers will not be able to enter the school grounds; this will support limited footfall.

There will be no access to facilities to store bikes and scooters so please refrain from allowing your child to bring them in.

Of course, this is not an extensive list of questions and answers and there will be many of you wanting to know more. Following this information will be a further survey supported by the MHST (Mental Health Support Team) this will enable you to ask further questions and help us to support you all during these challenging times.