



Dear Parents/Carers

We are very much looking forward to the return to school of all children, we hope you have had a lovely summer.

The information below was sent out to parents at the end of last term but I thought it would be a timely reminder to send it again with a few updates.

Children will return in their class groups and it is essential that contact between these groups is minimised. The arrangements we are putting in place with strict drop off and collection times are, I understand, sometimes inconvenient for parents/carers especially when siblings are attending our school, but they are essential for the safety of everyone.

We also appreciate greatly your co-operation with the staggered start and finish times as this system is essential to ensure ALL children access the hand washing facilities during the time slot allocated to their group. Unfortunately we will not be able to accept children into school at times different to their allocated slot as this would mean children mixing from different groups and this would compromise the safety of other children.

Reception -Y6 will return full time on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September

Current Nursery will also start on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September and new Nursery children on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

Phased arrangements have been put in place for the first two weeks for Reception and parents have been informed of these.

Start and finish times are listed in the table below.

| Year Group | Start Time                  | Finish time                 |
|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Nursery    | AM 8:45-9:00 PM 12.15-12.30 | AM 11.30-11.45 PM 3:00-3:15 |
| Reception  | 9:00-9:05                   | 3:00                        |
| Year 1     | 8:55-9:00                   | 3:10                        |
| Year 2     | 8:35-8:40                   | 3:05                        |
| Year 3     | 8.45 – 8.50                 | 3:15                        |
| Year 4     | 8:50 – 8:55                 | 3:10                        |
| Year 5     | 8:40-8:45                   | 3:05                        |
| Year 6     | 8:30-8:35                   | 3:15                        |

Our school has put in place very detailed risk assessments, routines and procedures for the children's return and these will be available on the school website shortly.

Essential measures include:

- A requirement that anyone who is ill stays at home, if children have symptoms they will need a test and to self isolate

- Enhanced cleaning arrangements
- Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- Reduced contact between different groups
- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene

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**Breakfast and after school care** will have very strict procedures in place and children from different groups will be socially distanced from each other, therefore places will be limited. These places must be booked in advance and we have already contacted all parents/carers regarding your requirements. We expect payments to be made in advance either for the full half term or weekly in advance. Staff on duty will no longer be able to accept cash payments for this service as before. Our preferred method for payment is to use the online service via Parentpay – please contact Mrs Overfield for a code if you need to register or if you need to discuss an alternative payment method.

Children attending Wrap Around Care should use the bottom gate for access onto the premises. The gate will be open from 8am to 8:05am each morning and at 4.30pm or 5.30pm for children to be collected from the playground. These times have been put in place to minimise contact.

### **Morning routine**

We request only one parent/carer who meets the current social distancing guidelines, brings the child to school. We are continuing to implement the use of a one-way system on the pavements outside of school and we ask that parents walk on the left-hand side of the road pavement to avoid passing other adults and children. Please drop your child at the gate and keep walking past the entrance. Staff will see your child into school and direct them to the correct door. Unfortunately parents/carers will not be able to come on the premises although we will discuss an exception to this if the younger children are upset and will not leave the adult.

Children will use hand gel on entering the school grounds and wash their hands at the first opportunity.

### **Children feeling unwell**

Children must not attend school if they are feeling unwell and children will be sent home regardless of the symptoms they display. It is crucial that all children attending school are in good health, please ring to advise us if your child is ill and unable to attend school.

Parents/Carers must be contactable throughout the day so that we can contact you if necessary.

### **Communication/messages**

Staff will not be available at drop off and collection times for passing on messages so please continue to email these to the teacher or phone the main office. New email addresses for the class teachers will be in place from the start of the new school year and are as follows

[dcluskey.teacher@thornhill.durham.sch.uk](mailto:dcluskey.teacher@thornhill.durham.sch.uk)

[xaskew.teacher@thornhill.durham.sch.uk](mailto:xaskew.teacher@thornhill.durham.sch.uk)

[soverfield.teacher@thornhill.durham.sch.uk](mailto:soverfield.teacher@thornhill.durham.sch.uk)

[emoscardini.teacher@thornhill.durham.sch.uk](mailto:emoscardini.teacher@thornhill.durham.sch.uk)

[rjago.teacher@thornhill.durham.sch.uk](mailto:rjago.teacher@thornhill.durham.sch.uk)

[amarshall.teacher@thornhill.durham.sch.uk](mailto:amarshall.teacher@thornhill.durham.sch.uk)

[ckernick.teacher@thornhill.durham.sch.uk](mailto:ckernick.teacher@thornhill.durham.sch.uk)

[jjones.teacher@thornhill.durham.sch.uk](mailto:jjones.teacher@thornhill.durham.sch.uk)

[gayres.teacher@thornhill.durham.sch.uk](mailto:gayres.teacher@thornhill.durham.sch.uk)

### **What to Bring**

Children need to bring their own filled water bottle to school with them. This must be taken home every night and cleaned thoroughly. No school water bottles will be available.

Bags from home must not be brought to school.

### **Lunches**

Children in Reception Y1 and Y2 receive a universal free school meal and these will be eaten in the dining hall.

Children in Y3-Y6 can have a school lunch or packed lunch which will be eaten in their class room. Menus and information have previously been sent out regarding school meals. If children in Y3-Y6 are bringing a packed lunch it must be in a plastic box/container which will be cleaned on entry. These will be stored in the class room and we recommend putting a cool pack in the box.

### **Uniform**

It is important that children wear clean school uniform every day to school and an updated leaflet has been sent out regarding this.

Coats are to be hung on the back of the children's chair and no bags of any kind from home are allowed as the cloak rooms will not be available for the storage of equipment. Children will be working outdoors as part of their learning, therefore clothing suitable to the weather conditions should be worn, all day Sun protection cream should be applied by parents/carers to children prior to coming to school if necessary. Please note that staff will not be able to apply creams etc.

### **Collecting children**

We request only one parent/carer who meets the current social distancing guidelines, collects their child from school.

Nursery children's parents/carers are to use the top gate and door.

All other year groups to use the bottom gate for entry onto the premises by continuing to use the one-way pavement system as in the morning drop off.

Parents/Carers to wait in the designated social distancing areas on the yard. Parents/Carers will then exit the school playground via the large gate near to the kitchen and the main gate. This will ensure that parents/carers continue to follow the one-way system. Parents/Carers collecting siblings from different year groups may wait on the playground in the designated area socially distanced until they collect all children.

### **Home School Agreement for Covid 19**

Children and Parents who have not yet signed this will be issued with a copy of the agreement to sign and return on the child's first day of returning to school this will help to ensure the safety of everyone.

Please may I take this opportunity again to reassure you that the school has worked very hard to put everything in place ready for the safe return of your children to school. These arrangements may change over time and we will keep you informed of any changes made. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch and we will try our best to help.

We look forward to welcoming all the children back next week.

With very best wishes

Mrs Green

Headteacher