

Dear Parents/Carers

We are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 8th March and we hope that you and the children are looking forward to it too. This letter is to outline how we will return to the full reopening of the whole school following the guidance published for schools recently. In this guidance there is not very much that has changed and most things are the same as before Christmas.

We appreciate that children may have been affected in different ways by the current lockdown. In order to help us understand how your child has been impacted please complete a short survey available [here](#)

Recent changes to guidance

Attendance - once again it is mandatory for children to attend school from 8th March. It is very important that children have good attendance as we will be working very hard to catch up on all that has been missed.

Please return all school items used for remote learning to the school with your child on Monday morning including any digital devices, chargers, Wi-Fi access, books etc the children have been using.

Face coverings – All adults are to wear face coverings in communal areas. We therefore request that all parents wear a face covering when collecting the children in and around the vicinity of the school. If you are exempt from wearing a face covering please email your exemption to parents@thornhill.durham.sch.uk

All staff are engaging in asymptomatic testing twice weekly and shortly this will be offered to families. We are still awaiting information regarding this and as soon as we receive it, we will pass the information on.

Reminder Regarding Previous Routines

Children will return in their class groups/bubbles once again and it continues to be essential that contact between these groups is minimised.

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

Pupils, staff and other adults **must not come into the school if:**

- they have one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area
- they have had a positive test

They must immediately cease to attend and not attend for at least 10 days from the day after:

- the start of their symptoms
- the test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test (whether this was a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test)

Breakfast and after school care

We 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. 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. Parents should not wait near the school gate or in front of the school. 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 in the morning unless waiting with another child, 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.

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, please use the reading bag we provided previously and bring it to school every day. All equipment used during remote learning is to be returned to school on the first day back.

Uniform

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. during this time. We encourage plain dark trainers as children are unable to change their footwear during the school day and dark jogging bottoms for PE and outdoor work, appropriate shorts can also be worn.

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.

Communication with teaching staff will continue through the use of email.

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.

With very best wishes

Mrs Green

Headteacher