



## Thurlaston CE (Aided) Primary School

Teaching and living the Christian way of life

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5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are looking forward to welcoming all the children back.

As you are aware and have already been informed there will be no testing of children in school using Lateral Flow Devices or any other testing for COVID in school. The government have announced that families with school aged children can do asymptomatic home testing of **adults**.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Year 6 pupils should have received their secondary school allocation on Monday. If you are not happy with the allocation there are things you can do. If you are unsure what to do I can give you information. If you have been allocated St Martins and wish to use their transport, I have been asked to inform you that it is limited so contact them as soon as you can to secure a place.

Pupils in class 3 will be receiving their annual written report, as explained earlier in the year, before we break for Easter. Mrs Tonkin will be returning to school after Easter and will be working in school 4 days a week. I will be taking the class on Fridays until the end of the summer term. Sadly, Miss Taylor will be leaving us. We thank her for her hard work over this very strange year and wish her well for her future.

### **Reopening**

All schools will be returning to face to face teaching for all pupils during the week of 8<sup>th</sup> March. The government guidance has been produced and has only very minor differences to that published for the autumn term for primary schools. There are greater differences for secondary schools. The main difference for primary schools is that school staff have the opportunity for using LFD tests twice weekly. This has also been the case during this latter time when we were open to only some children.

Please note the government has said that **attendance at school is mandatory** so your child/ren must attend school other than for illness or if they are isolating because they have symptoms of have been in contact with a positive case of Covid or reasons when a child would normally be absent (illness, medical appointments etc.)

I think it is relevant to remind you of a few things.

School uniform should be worn. Please ensure your child has the correct uniform. I suggest you check now whether it still all fits! PE kits should be brought into school. Here is the link to the uniform policy. <http://www.thurlaston.leics.sch.uk/parents/uniform/> Boots are NOT part of the uniform.

We will be operating in 3 bubbles as we were in the autumn. We are slightly changing the drop off and pick up arrangements. It has been made clear to schools in recent meetings with the LA and with the Local Public Health England that drop off and Pick up times need to be managed to reduce the chance of transmission. Technically we are still in lockdown and people should only be meeting with one other person outside. Once you have collected your child/ren please leave the site immediately and go home.

We would encourage children from Year 4, 5 and 6 to walk home or if you live outside the village to meet you a little distance from the school to reduce the number of adults on site. Only one adult should collect children and Local Public Health England advice is that masks should be worn by adults.

Drop off and pick up will be for class 4 via the front playground- pupils entering and exiting via class 4 cloakroom: for class 3 via the front playground entering by the door nearest class 3; for class 1 and 2 via the side gate entrance and their own class doors. If you are collecting children from class 3 or 4 and the younger classes please collect your older children first and then the younger ones and then leave.

Anyone showing symptoms of Covid (continuous cough, temperature and loss of sense of taste or smell) should get a test. The household should isolate until the result is received. If it is positive please inform the school immediately. If it is negative you end your isolation. If you or your child is told by test and trace to isolate, you must isolate. If you, but not your child is isolating, you will need to make arrangements for your child to come to school. Please use the email [covid@thurlaston.leics.sch.uk](mailto:covid@thurlaston.leics.sch.uk) to report absences related to Covid at any time.

If your child will be absent for any other reason please ring the school as normal.

School will continue to use Class Dojo to post homework and send generic information until the end of the academic year. It will not be our primary means of communication with you and may not be monitored every day. Please use the means of communication that were normal prior to Covid e.g. ring the school.

Should a bubble need to be sent home we will inform you through the website and Class Dojo. Work will be set for the isolation period using Class Dojo. We trust and pray that this will not need to happen.

School lunches will continue as normal. Please ensure meals for class 3 and class 4 are paid for each Monday BEFORE they are taken. Please send money into school with your child in a named and sealed envelope.

Milk for under 5s and those who pay should start again but if you pay you will need to contact Cool Milk to pay. Fruit for KS1 will continue as in the autumn term.

The next payment for the residential visit (for those paying in instalments) is due on 1<sup>st</sup> March. As school will not be fully operational until 8<sup>th</sup> March we are deferring this payment to 8<sup>th</sup> March. Please send on the first day back.

We will be encouraging regular handwashing. If you would also like your child to use hand sanitiser please send them with their own.

Yours sincerely,

Gavin Beetham

