



THINKING  
SCHOOLS  
ACADEMY TRUST

Child First

Child Safe

Adult Safe

### **Important Update – Wednesday 20 May.**

Dear parent / carer

I am writing to you to provide further details regarding some year groups returning to school based learning after the May Break and the provision for other children, including those who are the children of key workers who require childcare provision.

This email contains a lot of important information. A summary of any actions you need to take or important updates are below.

### **Key messages for Nursery, Year R, Year 1 and Year 6**

- Maintain social distancing at home and in the wider community.
- Introduce your child to the concept of the Family Bubble and the need to stay in the Family Bubble when at school. You can use this explainer video here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VG347gkQ5zM&feature=youtu.be>
- Note the start and finish time for your child's Family Bubble - strict adherence to this is key.
- Ensure your child has the correct uniform (summer uniform is advisable) - PE kits are not required, please remove any jewellery as staff will not be able to support if needed.
- Refresh your child's understanding of our key school rules – details below.
- If children are not able to engage appropriately at school, respecting social distancing and the need for Family Bubbles to remain apart from each other then we will have no choice but to ask that child to engage with distance learning at home.
- If your child shows symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19 do not send your child to school and inform the school office via telephone or MYEd.
- If a child feels unwell, they should alert one of their Family Bubble staff immediately.
- If a member of your child's bubble, child or staff, shows symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19 we will be asking everyone in that bubble to stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days.
- The latest **Government guidance is that wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended.** Therefore, children and staff will not wear masks whilst at school.

**All other children must stay at home** and continue to engage with their distance learning in the way they have done up to now. For the children of key workers requiring childcare, from 1 June the children from All Faiths will be the only children attending the provision. From 1 June we will continue to require parents to provide a minimum of **24 hours notice** of their intention to use this provision.

**We will be opening as follows from 1 June:**

<b>Year group</b>	<b>First date children should attend school</b>
Nursery	Tuesday 2 June
Reception	Tuesday 2 June
Treetops	Tuesday 2 June
Nurture	Tuesday 2 June
Year 1	Wednesday 3 June
Year 6	Thursday 4 June
Key Worker Children	From Monday 1 June - please note that some children will have to move into their new bubbles from this date, so will not be part of the main key worker group.

I would like to reemphasise our belief that Child First = Child Safe = Adult Safe. This has been the key principle that has guided our planning since we began working on how to safely transition children back to school based learning.

I appreciate that this will be a longer communication than usual but, given the circumstances, I believe you will appreciate having as much information as possible at this time.

**Reminder of guidance published by the Government:**

As you know, whilst there has been a partial relaxing of the lockdown there are still significant restrictions that we must all abide by. This is important for us as the 'Bubble' approach we have taken is aimed at minimising the interaction of people when they are at school. To complement this approach it is important that we all minimise contact with other people when outside school. I have summarised the key restrictions that are currently in place below:

- During the emergency period, no person may leave or be outside of the place where they are living without reasonable excuse.
- People are allowed to meet one member of another household in a public space.
- The law bans public gatherings of more than two people, except in specific circumstances.
- Exercise 'with one member of another household' in outdoor public spaces, such as parks or the countryside.
- There is no limit on where the exercise can take place, and the government made clear in its new guidance that people can drive into the countryside for walks or recreation.

**Family Bubbles:**

To support social distancing and reduce the risk of unnecessary contact we are introducing Family Bubbles.

Each student will be part of a small, consistent Family Bubble with assigned staff who will only work with children in that Family Bubble. Children are therefore protected from contact with any other child outside their Family Bubble whilst at school.

How will the bubbles work?

- We have limited the Family Bubbles to 15 children.
- Your child will be issued with a coloured wristband through the post and we would ask that you place the band on your child prior to their arrival at school on their first day back.
- This wristband will need to be kept on throughout the whole day. At the end of each day, we will send your child home with a new band in their bag so that you are able to place a fresh band on your child prior to coming to school the following day.
- Bubbles will learn together, take breaks / lunches together and they will only use facilities such as playgrounds and other shared areas with this bubble.

Your child has been allocated to a bubble, the assigned adults for this bubble are Miss X and Miss Y.

### **Opening Hours:**

In order to welcome children back to All Faiths safely and ensure social distancing, we have introduced a staggered timetable for children returning to school based learning. **Our overall school opening hours are: 8.30-3.15 however, there will be flexible start times to allow for safe entry to the school.** Parents/Carers and children will still enter and exit the site using the Gun Lane entrance, but many children will be entering through a different door than before.

The arrival and departure times for different bubbles will be as follows:

<b>Bubble</b>	<b>Arrival Time</b>	<b>Departure Time</b>	<b>Entrance / Exit</b>
Red (Nursery am)	8:30	11:30	Nursery classroom door 1
Red (Nursery pm)	12:00	15:00	Nursery classroom door 1
Green (Yr R)	8:30	15:00	Reception classroom door
Blue (Yr R)	8:45	15:15	Nursery central door
Pink (Yr 1)	8:30	15:00	Year 1 Ramp
Orange (Yr1)	8:45	15:15	Year 1 Ramp
Red/Blue Stripe (Yr6)	8:30	15:00	Year 6 corridor door/ Main playground canopy area
Yellow/Blue Stripe (Yr6)	8:45	15:15	Year 6 corridor door/ Main playground canopy area
White (Key Worker children)	8:30	15:15	Year 6 classroom door/ Lower playground
Gold (Nurture)	8:30	15:00	Nurture Door
Purple (Treetops)	8:20	15:00	School Office
Peach (Treetops)	8:20	15:00	School Office

Unfortunately, to ensure our best endeavours supporting social distancing guidance, parents/carers will not be able to accompany their children inside the classrooms in the morning when dropping off. We ask you to arrive on time for your allocated drop-off and pick-up, but in the event that you arrive slightly earlier, please wait on the main school playground, making use of the space available- please do not congregate outside the exit locations.

### **The school day:**

As explained in my previous letter each Family Bubble will follow its own individual timetable to ensure it is always kept separated from any other Family Bubble.

These timetables will broadly follow the following pattern of activities. The subjects/ areas taught will vary from day to day. An example would be:

<b>Registration</b>	<b>Lesson 1</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Lesson 2</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>
8.50-9.00	9.00-10.30	10.30-10:45	10:45-12.00	12.00-13.00	13.00-15.00
Starter activity	Reading/ writing	Outside play within bubble only	Maths	Lunch and then play within bubble only	Science and RE lesson

In the first week back we will be working with children to help them re-socialise appropriately after an extended period of isolation. This will include circle time and time to talk opportunities as well as circle of friends to establish their new family, and for some, their new location within the school.

Unfortunately, our fruit supplier will not be able to resume delivering fruit to our schools so we would ask that parents provide all children with a healthy snack for break time.

### **School Lunches:**

We will be ensuring social distancing measures are upheld in dining rooms and are planning on staggered lunch breaks to ensure family groups are kept isolated. Robust controls are being implemented in kitchens to ensure catering staff are social distancing whilst preparing and serving food and extra checks will be made to ensure our supplier is delivering exceptionally high food safety standards.

We will be providing hot lunches or packed lunches for children who wish to have a school dinner. We will encourage children to choose a school packed lunch option to minimise queuing. Children will have a choice of sandwich filling which they can choose daily and the catering staff will add other delicious items such as fruit and cookies.

These meals will be free of charge to Year R and Year 1 and any Year 6 child who is entitled to free school meals. If you would normally pay for your school lunches, you will need to continue to pay through the usual channels.

However, parents can choose to send their child to school with their own packed lunch if they would prefer to do so. No Nuts or fizzy drinks please.

**Please continue to book and pay (if necessary) for all lunches via +Pay.** Cash will not be accepted.

Families entitled to receive benefit related free school meals will continue to receive vouchers if their child is unable to attend school. We are awaiting further guidance from the Government on eligibility for those children who are attending school.

### **Uniforms:**

During this time we recognise that students may have grown out of their uniform and replacing uniform items is a challenge given the circumstances. Therefore, we require children to follow the uniform guidance as far as possible and ask you to contact us if your child is unable to access a particular part of the school uniform and wear as close a substitute as possible. E.g. wearing black trainers instead of black shoes. Please help to keep their uniform clean and washed regularly to help maintain the highest standards of hygiene.

### **Face masks:**

The latest **Government guidance is that wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended**. Furthermore, the Government states that schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others.

Therefore, children and staff will not wear face masks whilst at school.

### **School Rules:**

This has been an unusual time for us all and we have had to make many adjustments during lockdown. Children would have missed their friends and the structure their school environment brings through routine. As we move into the next stage and begin to reclaim some normality, we will be asking all our children to remember school rules and behave in a suitable manner within their bubbles. The habits we encourage our children to develop are:

- We keep trying
- We think before we act
- We choose our words carefully
- We work well with others

We must make it clear that our first priority is to keep our community safe as we transition back to school based learning. Therefore, **if a child is unable to engage appropriately at school, respecting social distancing and the need for Family Bubbles to remain apart from each other then we will have no choice but to ask that child to engage with distance learning at home**. This is to ensure the safety of our whole school community.

### **Keeping our community safe over time:**

Whilst we are learning within the Family Bubbles we will be following the Government self-isolation strategy. If a member of your child's bubble, child or staff, shows symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19 we will be asking everyone in that bubble to stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days.

**If your Child shows symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19 do not send your child to school and inform the school office via telephone, 03333 602100 or MYEd as soon as possible.**

**If a child shows symptoms at school, we will contact parents to alert them that their child is showing symptoms and ask them to collect their child immediately.**

These rules also apply if anyone in your household is affected. We are not medical professionals and we will be following the national advice. You can find information about symptoms [here](#).

Please note that if someone displays potentially Covid-19 symptoms but following a test is found not to have the virus then the members of the Family Bubble will be able to return to school.

**Where to look for further information**

We have launched today a dedicated website for information on our plans to return children safely to school.

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust is actively responding to ongoing developments with the Coronavirus outbreak so please use the links on this page for updated information on our response and what it will mean for you.

**FAQs and information:** [www.tsatrust.org.uk/coronavirus](http://www.tsatrust.org.uk/coronavirus)

We look forward to safely welcoming some children back to school next term. We will keep under review our ability to safely accommodate children from other year groups going forward. However, this will only be done when we are confident that this can be done safely.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Murphy'.

Mr C Murphy