

3rd March, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As you're aware, the government has announced that schools will reopen to all pupils on the **Monday 8th March**. We're very much looking forward to welcoming back more of our children to face-to-face education. Lockdown has been a challenging period for all of us, and we'd like to thank you for your continuing support during this difficult and uncertain time.

Uniform

All children must return to school wearing full school uniform. If you have any problems with this, please call school and make an appointment to speak to Mrs Cottle or Miss Morris.

Attendance

From 8th March, school attendance will be mandatory, and our usual rules on attendance will apply.

As a reminder, your child should self-isolate and not come to school if they:

- Have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive
- Live with someone who has symptoms or have tested positive
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive

In line with the latest government guidance, pupils who are **clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school**. If your child is in this group, they should continue to learn from home until further notice. Please provide school with a copy of your child's shielding letter.

For pupils who are self-isolating or shielding, remote learning provision will still be available and should be accessed by your child if they are well enough to do so.

Our safety measures

Rest assured that we're doing everything we can to make sure our children can return to school safely. We will continue to take the following protective measures to keep everyone safe:

- Staggered drop off and pick up times to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave
- Playground markings to support social distancing
- Corridor markings to support one-way systems and social distancing
- Allocated play areas
- Routine hygiene measures such as regular hand-washing
- All adults to wear masks in communal areas such as corridors and lunch halls
- Parents and carers to wear masks on the school site
- Additional cleaning during the school day

School day start and finish times from **Monday 8th March** will be as follows:

Start	Hall exit	UKS2 door	LKS2 door	KS1 door	EYFS door
8:30	5CO	4JF	3EH/EM	1MC	
8:40	6RJ		3LT	1/2RA	
8:50	6KE	5LF	4LR	2JM	RGK

Finish	Hall exit	UKS2 door	LKS2 door	KS1 door	EYFS door
14:40	5CO	4JF	3EH/EM	1MC	
14:50	6RJ		3LT	1/2RA	
15:00	6KE	5LF	4LR	2JM	RGK

Nursery will continue to operate from 8.30am – 11.30am and 12.15pm – 3.15pm.

Lunchtime

Children will go into the lunch hall in their class groups, floor stickers will continue to support social distancing at the dinner hatch and children will continue to sit in a more spaced out fashion. Tables are thoroughly cleaned between sittings. Please be assured that children in school will have the option of a hot meal every day. There will still be a requirement for those not eligible for universal infant free school meals or benefits related free school meals to pay for lunches. If you feel, due to a change in circumstances, you may now be eligible, please contact a member of the admin team.

Breakfast Club

It is anticipated Breakfast Club will be reopening, for children in years 1 – 6, week commencing Monday 22nd March. All parents/carers must email school prior to this date if they require a place, including parents of children who have attended in previous years. The proposed reopening of Breakfast Club for Reception age children is Monday 12th April. Breakfast Club is not available for Nursery children.

Communication

We will continue to share updates via School Ping. If you are unable to access this, please contact school and a member of staff will contact you to help set this up.

In accordance with the School Coronavirus Operation Guidance published by the DfE (Feb 2021) access to the school site during the school day will be by pre-arranged appointment only. If you have any enquires please email school at thorntree@thorntreeacademy.org.uk. A member of staff will get back to you as soon as practically possible. We are here to support you in any way we can, please don't hesitate to contact school if you have any concerns or questions.

Can I also remind you of the availability of our Eco-shop. This continues to open each Monday 1.30pm – 2.30pm, please enter via the hall exit door. A limited number of people will be permitted entry at any one time to ensure we maintain our established social distancing protocols.

Thank you for your continued support. Please be assured your child's welfare, safety and education is of paramount importance to us at all times, as is the safety of you and our staff.

Take care and stay safe

Wendy Nelson
Headteacher