



Thameside Primary School

Cotman Close Abingdon Oxfordshire OX14 5NL

Telephone 01235-527600

e-mail: office.2598@thameside.vale-academy.org



Headteacher: Laura Youngman

"Every Child Every Chance Every Day"

Monday 4th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back – arrangements for September 2023

First of all, we hope you are all having a fantastic summer break! We are very much looking forward to the upcoming term ahead and welcoming back all of our children to school on **Wednesday 6th September** – we can't wait to see them and I know that staff have missed them very much! We had such a fantastic year last year and we have lots more to look forward to this year!

Further to my communication last week, a surveyor from Oxfordshire County Council has visited today and confirmed that we do not have any RAAC on site. As such, school will be fully open as planned on Wednesday 6th September.

We have lots to look forward to this year as we continue on our journey to make Thameside the very best it can be, including a variety of new clubs and enrichment (such as Yoga and a Bike Club) as well as trips and visits to enhance our curriculum. Keep an eye out for Thameside in Touch for the latest updates!

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce and warmly welcome the new staff who will be joining the Thameside team and those who will be taking on new roles this term:



Ms Kate Daniell will be working at Thameside as Year 3 Class teacher and Reading leader.



Miss Charlotte Biss will be joining Thameside as Year 3 class teacher and Art and Design Leader.

We thought that you would appreciate some key reminders and updates in advance of the new term ahead, so please find below some key 'FAQ'; we will be sending out our normal newsletters when we are back in full swing so that you can see what our lovely children have been getting up to!

Details of our future open classroom events and 'Cafes' will follow soon.

Please also take a moment to have a look at our Facebook and Twitter pages where we will be sharing updates and celebrating some of the fantastic learning that is taking place at our school! Our website is also continually updated and can be accessed here: [Thameside Primary School - Home \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](http://Thameside Primary School - Home (thamesideschool.co.uk))

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary

Twitter:@SchoolThameside

We will also be hosting an open morning for **PROSPECTIVE** parents in late September which will be publicised on our website and social media. **We do still have spaces in Nursery and Reception so please do spread the word about our wonderful school!**

As always, do contact the school office if you have any further questions or queries or if you need to speak to your child's teacher. We are still experiencing some significant staff absence in our front office, so response times may be longer than usual – **for non-urgent queries, query forms will be available at the hatch and we will respond within 48hrs. Thank you for your understanding and patience.**

Enjoy the last few days of the holiday (with some sunshine!!)

We can't wait to welcome back our Thameside family!

Laura Youngman

Headteacher

Frequently Asked Questions

(1) **When does school start and finish – NEW START AND FINISH TIMES!**

School is open from 8.40am to 3.15pm for Reception, KS1 and KS2.

Nursery is open from 8.45am to 11.45am and 11.45am to 3.15pm (2.45pm if not paying for extended session)

(2) **What are the school dropping off and picking up routines?**

Being punctual for school is very important for your child and for the rest of the class. The first part of the day is a key part of the day's routine; children share news with their friends as they remove coats and sort out their belongings. They like to merge into the familiar routine with their friends and then settle quietly into the classroom ready to learn. If a child arrives late, it can make them feel very unsettled and means that they do not start their learning as promptly. **As such, we ask your support in ensuring that your child/ren arrive by 8.40am– our successful raffle ticket system will continue this year!** Class teachers and senior members of staff are on duty from 8.40am on the gate to meet and greet the children before they enter school. Arrivals after 8.50 am, should report to the School Office.

- KS1 parents/carers should go across the playground to drop off children.
- If parents/carers give permission children in Years 5 and 6 are allowed to come to school and walk home unaccompanied. A separate letter is available for parents to give consent if they would like their child/ren to walk home.

(3) **What is the procedure for contacting my child's class teacher?**

As teachers are busy preparing for the morning lessons and welcoming pupils into class, parents and carers are asked not to initiate ad-hoc meetings with teachers before school starts or at the beginning of the day (we do however understand that there may be particular circumstances when a meeting is absolutely necessary).

If you have a message for your child's teacher, then please inform either the office or the **designated staff on duty (who will be on the gates and would be very happy to help!)**. They will ensure any messages are passed onto the relevant member of staff. If you need to meet your child's teacher then it is best to do this after school or arrange a meeting via the office.

(4) **Holidays in term time**

In line with DfE requirements, holidays cannot be taken during term time due to the adverse impact on children's learning. Any requests for absence will only be considered in very exceptional circumstances.

(5) **Sickness**

All absences from school must be reported by a phone call or email to the School Office on the first day of absence and the school informed daily until the child returns. When your child returns to school, please send in written confirmation of the dates that they were absent, including the reason for the absence.

Please note that if your child has a stomach bug, 48 hours must elapse after the last sign of any symptoms before they return to school.

For Covid 19, the current guidance remains as follows:

- **Children (and staff) who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They may return to school when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.**
- **Adults, who can test, and receive a positive COVID-19 test result, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice is 3 days.**

(6) **What are the uniform expectations?**

A new uniform was introduced in 2021. This has been introduced gradually and all children are now expected to wear this from September 2023

Thameside uniform with the school logo can be purchased from the uniform shop, Trutex in Didcot. Uniform can either be purchased from them online at myschoolwear.co.uk or can be purchased directly from the shop in Didcot. Full details are on our website.

Non logo'd uniform can be purchased from any retailer that parents/carers prefer.

Main School Uniform

- Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan with logo.
White shirt/polo/blouse
Grey trousers (no tracksuit bottoms or leggings)
Grey skirt or pinafore dress
Grey/Black tights
White/Grey/Black socks
Blue Gingham Dress (Summer Term Uniform only).
Suitable footwear for indoor and outdoor play. (School shoes are not required until Year 1)

Wellington Boots
Book bag

P.E Kit (not required for Nursery)

- Trainers
Navy T-shirt with logo.
Navy shorts
Navy jogging bottoms
Navy fleece/sweatshirt/hoodies
- School shoes will be worn inside school. Children may change into trainers when they go outside at playtime.
- *Please ensure long hair is tied up for school; **make-up or nail varnish** is not permitted.*
- Children are not allowed to wear earrings for P.E for health and safety reasons. If earrings cannot be removed, they need to be covered for P.E. lessons.

What else will children will need to bring to school

- A named water bottle (containing water only, **no squash/juice please**).
- Book bag.
- Packed lunch unless children are having a school dinner.
- Please do not send children to school with anything that is not essential (e.g. toys)

(7) When are my child's PE days? Children may continue to come to school in their PE kit on their PE days?

Children can continue to come to school in their PE kit (please see uniform list on the previous page). PE will start in Week 2 and days will be emailed via BROMCOM.

(8) When does Breakfast Club and After School Club start?

Breakfast and After School club will resume from 7.45am on Wednesday 6th September. Please contact the school office if you need after school childcare. Booking information and further details have been sent out.

(9) Where do I find the School Dinner menus?

The school dinner menu is available on the website. Children in R, Yr 1 and Yr2 are entitled to a universal free school meal. This can be ordered in class on a daily basis. If any families have had a change in their circumstances and think their child/ren may be entitled to a free school meal, please contact the school office.

Just a reminder that we have children in school who are allergic to nuts. We respectfully remind parents that we are a nut-free school so please do not send in any items containing nuts.