



Joining Thameside School A Guide for Parents



Our school motto

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our lovely school! We hope that the following booklet provides you with some helpful general information about joining Thameside School. Should you have any questions that are not answered below, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office (contact details can be found at the bottom of the document.)

Our website also includes lots more information so please do take a look: [Thameside Primary School - Home \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](http://thamesideschool.co.uk)

School Start and Finish Times

The school day starts at 8.40am and finishes at 3.00pm. The school gates will be open from 8.30 am and children may enter the building from 8.40am. The gates will be locked during the day. Access to the school at these times is via the main entrance only. Please remember to let the school know if a different person may be collecting your child from school (please see the Foundation Stage and Nursery Parents' Guides for further information on these procedures.)

Sickness and Other Absence

If your child is unwell, please contact the school on the first day of absence. You can do this by phone (there is an answer-phone which is regularly checked), by email or in person. If the illness continues, we ask that you please contact school after three days of absence and send a note into school when your child returns.

If parents wish to request to take their child out of school during term time, please write to the Headteacher via the School Office. We are unfortunately not able to authorise any holiday absence unless the circumstances are exceptional.

If you need to take your child out of school for a medical appointment (that cannot be arranged outside of school hours), please let the office know in writing if possible, in advance of the appointment.

Medicines in School

School staff are not obliged to administer medication and as such, it is the sole responsibility of parents and carers to give medicines during the day. However, in exceptional circumstances, it may be agreed that a member of staff trained in First Aid can administer the medication.

If any prescribed medicines need to be taken during the day by children, parents are asked to hand the medication into the School Office and complete a form giving relevant details.

School Uniform

Last year, a new uniform was introduced. This has been introduced gradually and all children will be 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 Dinners

The price of a school meal for Years 3 to 6 is currently £2.50 per meal (£12.50 per week). School dinners should be booked on the day via the Office. Each child has an account on the Parent Pay programme (you will also receive an activation code and guide in September in order to pay any balance). Parents are able to pay any amount as long as the account remains in credit. Payments should be made by Friday of the week that the meal has been taken. Statements are issued on request.

Infant Free Meals

Children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 are entitled to a free hot meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meal Scheme (UIFSM).

Free School Meals

If you or your partner are in receipt of Income Support, Job Seeker's Allowance or Child Tax Credit with a family income below £16,190 you may be eligible for free meals for your child. Please contact the School Office where your query will be dealt with in confidence.

Packed Lunches

Your child may bring a packed lunch in from home if preferred. Thameside School promotes healthy eating so we ask that you do not include items such as chocolate, sweets or fizzy drinks. Packed lunches are eaten in the dinner hall.

Water Bottles

Please bring an individually-labelled bottle of water in for your child on a daily basis. Please do not fill the bottle with squash or fruit juice. This will be kept in the classroom for your child to sip from during the day and should be taken home each evening for washing and refilling.

Fruit

As part of the Government's '5 a Day' scheme, children in year groups F2 to Year 2 are provided with a piece of fruit each day. This is distributed by the class teacher at a designated snack time during the school day.

Snacks

Children can bring in a healthy snack to eat at breaktime. No chocolate or sweets please. Foods such as a piece of fruit, or cheese are recommended.

Nut free policy

Although we recognise that this cannot be guaranteed, Thameside aims to be a nut-free school. The school aims to protect children who have allergies to nuts, yet also help them, as they grow up, to take responsibility as to what foods they can eat and to be aware of where they may be put at risk. We do not allow nuts or nut products in school lunch boxes. Our policy is to not use nuts in any of the food prepared on site at our school and our suppliers provide us with nut-free products. However, we cannot guarantee freedom from nut traces.

Our "Nut-Free Policy" means that the following items should not be brought into school:

- Packs of nuts
- Peanut butter sandwiches

- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Sesame seed rolls (children allergic to nuts may also have a severe reaction to sesame)
- Cakes made with nuts

Parental Involvement

Strong links with the local community and parents are actively developed and greatly valued by our school. There is a lively, enthusiastic PTA group, who support the school in a variety of projects each year.

Active parental involvement in your child's/children's learning, is warmly welcomed and encouraged. Information about how you can support your child's start at school (and Nursery) can be found in our separate Nursery and Foundation Stage Parents' guides. To further enhance our curriculum, parents and members of the community are encouraged to offer their skills and talents to the school to broaden and enrich the curriculum. Please do contact the School Office if you would like to help in school or share a talent for skill; we would love to hear from you!

Parents' Evenings, held at regular intervals throughout the year, also provide an opportunity to discuss your child's/children's learning with their class teacher and allow us to work in partnership, to ensure that all of our children can reach their potential.

Before and After School Club

At Thameside we have a dedicated, and very popular, Breakfast and 'Stay and Play' After School Club, which provides high quality wrap-around care. Should you require further information about Before and After School Club, information can be obtained from the School Office.

Contact Details

Please let us know as soon as you can if your address or phone numbers change. If your child is ill or injured, we will need to get in touch with you as quickly as possible and as such, it is essential that we have your most up to date contact details.

Newsletters, Website and Twitter

School and year group newsletters are sent out termly via BROMCOM and can also be found on our school website. We frequently update our website and Twitter pages with new information and celebrations of activities in school, so please do check these regularly (links can be found below). All of our school policies, term dates; curriculum information and other important details about our school can also be found on the website.

Problems or Queries

If you have any worries about your child, please arrange to have a talk with the class teacher or Phase Leader in the first instance. Where possible, please avoid doing this at the beginning of the school day when teachers are preparing for the day and welcoming children into school. Should you have an urgent message, this can be passed to the class teacher via the School Office. Any general queries can also be directed to office staff.

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Website: [Thameside Primary School - Home \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](http://thamesideschool.co.uk)

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary

Twitter: @SchoolThameside