

**WEST
THORNTON**
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Associate Headteacher: Donna Callaghan
Rosecourt Road, Croydon, CR0 3BS
office@westthornton.croydon.sch.uk

Associate Headteacher: Harriet Joseph
103 Canterbury Road, Croydon, CR0 3HH
huboffice@westthornton.croydon.sch.uk

T: 020 8684 3497
www.westthornton.croydon.sch.uk

Friday 22nd May

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that our communication over this week has provided you with additional detail regarding our plans to reopen. Once again, we would like to thank all of the parents who have contacted us to convey their support.

So far this week, our letters have covered the protective steps that we are taking but alongside this you also play a vital role in helping to keep all of our children safe. Please take the time to read the information below and we thank you in advance for your co-operation with these new guidelines.

Our expectations of parents during this time:

Attendance

We sent out a survey to families with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 last week and have also been making phone calls to some of those parents and carers this week. We are grateful to parents for letting us know whether they intend to bring their child into school from 2nd June when we plan to reopen for these year groups.

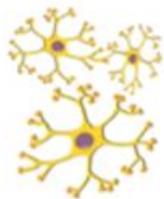
We will take attendance registers as usual for Reception, Year 1, Year 6 from 2nd June as this forms part of our safeguarding measures as a school. However, there will be no fines issued for children in these year groups not attending school in the summer term. As families, you must make your own decision about whether your child returns to school based on your own circumstances.

Uniform

We ask that children continue to wear full school uniform from 2nd June. We do understand, though, that because of the challenges involved washing items of clothing more regularly, you might not have enough uniform for every day. We want to be supportive of families choosing to return to school and therefore will be flexible about this.

Covid-19 Symptoms

If your child displays any of the symptoms associated with Covid-19 (a temperature/new, persistent cough/loss of, or change to, sense of taste or smell) **they must not come into school.** Your household must then follow government guidelines for self-isolation. If your child has been attending school you must contact the school to inform them if they develop symptoms.



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Transport

The current government advice is to minimise use of public transport where possible; we therefore advise you to walk or drive to school if possible. We understand this will depend on each family's individual circumstances.

Drop off/Pick up Arrangements

Yesterday we wrote to you to inform you of your child's start and finish time, as well as their entry and exit point. We are staggering the start and finish times, and asking some year groups to use different points of entry and exit, in order to avoid crowding and maintain social distancing for the safety of children, families and staff. We ask that all families arrive to drop off and pick up at their allocated times to support us with this. On arrival, there may be a number of pupils from the same group also arriving at school and this process might be slower than usual as we welcome each child into school safely. We appreciate your patience as we manage this and ask that you maintain at least two metres distance from other families. Once you have dropped off or collected your child, please move away from the immediate entrance to the school so that other families can gain access while maintaining a safe distance from others.

Home Learning

We will continue to provide online home learning packs for all year groups, including Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, so that those children not returning to school, as well as those in other year groups, can still access learning at home. There are also lots of online resources you can use at home to help your children at home. E-bug is a good example of this (<https://www.e-bug.eu/>). We will also continue to share any useful resources on our home learning site.

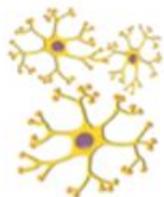
Bringing Resources/Belongings into School

To help us to maintain high standards of hygiene, **it is extremely important that children do not bring their own stationery into school.** We will be preparing an individual stationery pack for each child in school so that the sharing of resources can be minimised.

If children are returning reading books they have taken home, there will be boxes at each entry point where these can be dropped off each morning. They will then be thoroughly cleaned before reuse.

We ask that children do not bring anything to school with them that they don't need, including coats and bags unless absolutely necessary. Children will not be using lockers, again to help us to maintain a clean, safe environment; instead they will store their belongings at their work stations.

Children may bring in their own water bottle, which they can keep with them at their work station.



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Breakfast and After-School Club

Breakfast club and after-school club will only be available to pupils who have already been attending as children of key workers. If you need support with this, we ask that you phone the school office to speak to a member of the team.

School Offices

Parents and carers should not enter the school office at either site. If this is the entry/exit point for your child, a member of staff will greet them at the door. If you have a query, please phone or email the school office, who will get back to you as soon as possible, or speak to the member of staff at the entry/exit point at the beginning or end of the day.

Please do refer to the Frequently Asked Questions document we sent to you earlier this week, or contact the school if there is anything you are unsure about, or if you wish to inform us of your decision about your child's attendance.

As you may be aware, the final decision on whether it is safe to open schools will be made by the government on Thursday 28th May. Following this announcement, we will write to parents again to update you on our position.

Best wishes,

Harriet Joseph
Associate Headteacher
hjoseph@inspirepartnership.co.uk

Donna Callaghan
Associate Headteacher
dcallaghan@westthornton.croydon.sch.uk