

Thomas Fairchild's Restart Programme Phase 2

I hope you all continue to be of healthy mind, body and spirit as we continue to navigate these difficult times.

We are mindful of the impact this terrible virus is having on the wider Thomas Fairchild community and I can assure you all our staff are thinking of both you and your families during this crisis. I would also like to say thank you to parents and carers for your patience and understanding around the decisions we have made over the past 7 weeks; we appreciate the trust you have shown in us as professionals. I would also like to thank parents/carers who responded to our survey; we found the feedback useful.

In the last school newsletter, I promised to update you regarding the re-opening of Thomas Fairchild School in the Summer 2 half term. I am now in a position to explain our re-opening plan.

- Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils have been split into House Teams of a maximum of 15. Each house team will have a designated 'zone' in one part of the school with access throughout the day to outside space. Pupils will remain in this zone for the whole day except for play and lunchtimes. The adults who work in each House Team will remain with the team for the rest of the term.
- Having the same pupils and same adults in one 'hub' enables us to track and trace effectively when this becomes available.
- The pupils will have a structured day that includes reading, handwriting, maths and topic work.
- For the first couple of weeks, there will be an emphasis on circle time activities where children can discuss their lockdown experiences, communicate any concerns they have and generally help them to adjust physiologically to returning to school and to a very different experience to the one they left. Pupils will have access to therapy services should they require it.
- Each house team has a qualified first aider who will provide any first aid within the hub with full PPE available.
- Play and lunch times will be staggered so pupils do not mix with other house teams.
- Each house team will have its own entrance to the school: this will reduce congestion and ensure house team adults only come into contact with a limited number of parents. This information will be texted weekly as pupils will move around the different zones to enable them to experience different learning opportunities.
- Rather than a set start and finish time, there will be a transitional start/finish time to prevent congestion: parents can drop their child off between 9 – 9.30am at their designated entrance and collect their child between 3 -3.30pm from the same location. There will always be an adult stationed at these entrances.

Keeping your child safe (and by extension you and your wider family safe) is the absolute priority for our return. Aside from the measures described above we have:

- conducted a thorough risk assessment of the premises in relation to Coronavirus
- A deep clean will be carried out in all areas of the school during half-term and house team hubs will be deep cleaned weekly.
- Floor tape at 2 metre intervals will be across the school to ensure physical distancing when moving around the school. Posters about physical distancing will also be displayed.
- Children will be reminded about frequent handwashing (monitored by adults), and not touching surfaces unnecessarily and to not touch their faces.
- House teams will have anti-bacterial spray to ensure surfaces are cleaned regularly through the day.
- Pupils will not share resources; they will have their own zipped wallet with stationery items, whiteboards etc within.

Government advice is that it is **not realistic** to expect early years and primary age children to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. Transmission is to be minimised by the measures we have outlined above. Also, regarding personal protective equipment (eg masks), government guidance is that staff **will not** require PPE. The only time we would expect staff to wear masks and gloves is when dealing with first aid situations. Children will also not need to wear face masks.

I need to make clear, and you may already be aware, that it is **your decision** as a parent/carer whether your child returns to school at this time. School attendance is not compulsory during the Summer 2 half term and parents **will not** be penalised in terms of attendance if they decide not to send their child or children.

In light of the above, I also need to make clear that home learning packs and letters will continue to be provided for all year groups, irrespective of whether they are due to return or not. Teachers will also continue to make phone calls to parents of all pupils who we do not see at school.

A final note about the week beginning Monday 1st June: school will not be open on the Monday as it will be an INSET day to enable us to ensure staff and the premises are completely prepared for welcoming back pupils. If you are a Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 parent, you will receive a text next week detailing your child's house team and which entrance they should use. House teams will not return on the same day to enable us to monitor each day carefully and iron out any health and safety and operational issues. The text you receive will state which day your child should return to school.

These truly are extraordinary times. Our resolve as a community is truly being tested, but by the same token the positive feedback and happiness exchanged when we see children fills me/us with confidence and confirms that we will come through this together and strong.

Thank you for your on-going support and trust in our professional decisions.

Miss Caroline King