



Thornhill Junior & Infant School

Edge Lane, Thornhill, Dewsbury WF12 0QT

Tel: 01924 485638

Website: www.thornhilljiscschool.co.uk

Parents/Carers of children in Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 6

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

On Sunday 10th May, the Prime Minister announced that he hoped that schools would start reopening on 1st June. He specifically stated that on this date - providing that the R (rate of infection) remained below one - Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 would start being allowed back into school as part of a phased return. This announcement was as much as a surprise to the teaching profession as it was to you.

I have already held a number of meetings with Focus Trust and key staff within school on how we can achieve this safely and with minimal risk to our children, staff and their families.

I can assure you that if we do open on 1st June then it will be in a way that ensures that everyone linked to our school is protected as much as possible from the Coronavirus threat. I ask for your patience and understanding as I try to coordinate a safe and successful return to school. To be truthful, at this moment in time, it seems an almost impossible task. If all children in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 6 were to return, as well as keyworker children, we would have in excess of 220 children!

School as we know it will change significantly and it is my job to ensure that we are able to operate in a safe way for your child, my staff and all of our families.

I can understand why the Prime Minister has discussed reopening schools - the education of our children is vital and each day spent away from school potentially impacts their future. However, I can also understand that parents may be worried. This is a choice that you have to make yourself as a parent but I thought it would be useful to outline how school may look to enable you to make that decision.

- We will have no more than twelve children in any classroom to enable us, to the best of our ability, to maintain social distancing rules.
- Each group will be supervised by a teacher. However, we cannot guarantee that this will be your child's class teacher or indeed the same teacher each day.
- These groupings/bubbles (of up to twelve) will be maintained throughout the day including when outside at break times and lunchtimes.
- There will be no hot meal service and all children will be expected to bring a packed lunch. Lunches will be eaten in classrooms.
- Staggered drop off and collection times will need to be implemented.
- The curriculum will mirror the work that is being sent home.

To allow us to make the necessary arrangements, I would be grateful if you could telephone the school office 01924 485638 or email the support email address thornhillsupport@focus-trust.co.uk by Wednesday 20th May to inform us if you would like your child to be considered for a place from Monday 1st June.

I will contact you again prior to the 1st June. I continue to work every day with the Local Authority, Focus Trust and a variety of Unions to ensure that school is the safe place that it has always been for your child. Until then my advice, as it has been throughout the crisis, is to Stay Home, Save Lives and Protect the NHS. Together we will get through this.

Take care, look after yourself, your families and our community.



Michael Rowland
Headteacher

Government Advice on Schools Reopening:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>