



# Twyford C of E School

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Headteacher – Mrs Judith Bloomfield

[www.twyfordschool.org.uk](http://www.twyfordschool.org.uk)

23 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **A Time to Pause and Celebrate**

We have 'survived' the first half term of school and it is time for us to pause and reflect upon the successes we have achieved together. Those first few days of term in September seem a distant memory. Any initial uncertainties and anxieties shared by us all have mostly been replaced with reassurances. We are still facing significant challenges ahead, both as a school and within wider communities but we should be thankful for how we have worked together to keep our school as safe and normal as possible.

I am really proud of how well the children have returned and readjusted to life back in school, dealing with the demands placed on them with their academic work and also learning how to be part of a bigger group again. We have seen a full spectrum of emotions from excitement and enjoyment to tiredness and anxiety. However, a big thank you is needed to all the children for trying their best – this is all we can ask for.

The staff at school have been working under significant pressure to adhere to ever changing guidelines whilst ensuring learning is effective and enjoyable for everyone. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and brilliant staff team and we should thank them for ensuring the start of the school year has been so positive.

Below I have detailed our review for some of the procedures we have in place and any changes which are going to occur as a result. Please take the time to read it through.

## **The Start and End of the School Day**

Staggered start and end times to the school day have been really successful this term in helping manage the number of parents on site at any one time. The one-way system for walking around the school site has also helped with supporting parents and children in maintaining social distancing. I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation with this. Over the past week, we have reviewed this system and have decided that we will be keeping the staggered timings and one-way routes but have made some tweaks to timings for 'Group B' as noted below.

For everyone, you will now be able to drop your child off at school within a ten-minute window. One advantage of this is for those of you who have children with different drop off times; you will be able to drop off in Group A towards the end of their time and then it will not be so long a wait for your child in Group B to enter school.

If your child is in Group B and you do not have children in Group A, please do not enter the school site until the time noted below. Thank you.

As before, whilst on the school grounds, please ensure you and your child maintain social distance from other parents and children with your child waiting with you. Once your child has gone inside, please leave the school grounds quickly.

		Drop Off	Finish Time	
<b>Group A</b>	Reception	<b>Between 8:40am and 8:50am</b>	15:10	
	Year 1			
	Year 3			
	Year 4			
<b>Group B</b>	Year 2	<b>Between 8:50am and 9:00am</b>	<b>15:20</b>	<b>*NEW TIMINGS*</b>
	Year 5			
	Year 6			

The timings for Nursery will remain the same: 9:00 to 12:00 and 12:00 to 15:00. Nursery children will not be able to enter the Early Years area until 9:00am.

If your child is on the school bus, we will facilitate the timings of their day in line with when the bus arrives in the morning and leaves in the afternoon.

### **Organisation of Classes**

Taking into account several factors, a decision was taken, with the support of governors, to restructure how KS1 and EYFS were grouped over this autumn term. Almost immediately, once term had started, we could see the benefit of our decision to make alterations to structure so that the needs of all the children were being met. Following a review, and taking on board feedback from parents, we will be keeping this structure in place for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 for the remainder of the autumn term.

### **Lunchtimes**

Over the past term, we have been slowly adapting our lunchtime routines to work towards all children being able to eat their lunch in the hall on a staggered timetable, ensuring that bubbles do not mix. This has been running successfully for two weeks now and so after half term we are in the position to be able to reintroduce hot lunches.

### **School Uniform, including PE Kits**

For the first half term of autumn, we relaxed our uniform policy in order to support families who were waiting for ordered items to arrive or had difficulty obtaining uniform items from the shops. However, as we move into the second half of this term, we will be expecting all our pupils to be wearing the correct uniform. A full list can be found on our school website. I would also like to request that trainers are saved for the days pupils have PE and black school shoes are worn on the other days of the week. As before, a clean uniform will help prevent the spread of any germs that may be on items previously worn. Therefore, a regular clean of uniform would be greatly appreciated.

At present, we are asking the children to come to school in their PE kits on the days they have PE lessons, and it has been good to hear lots of positive feedback from parents about it. This strategy has been very successful in reducing the amount of things being brought into school from home, freeing up valuable cloakroom space. Therefore, we will be continuing with this requirement for after half term. We aim to deliver our PE lessons outside where possible, so as the weather changes please ensure your child has a pair of jogging bottoms (navy) to wear. Our PE uniform requirements can be located on the school website.

Further guidance has been released this past week to schools from the DfE reminding us that it is vital for classrooms to be well ventilated, despite the weather or temperatures. This includes doors and windows being open when it is safe to do so. Therefore, as we move towards winter you may wish to consider adding some layers of clothing for your child to wear under their uniform.

### **Covid Positive Case**

If a child who attends Twyford C of E School tests positive for Covid on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> or Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October, it is imperative that you email the office at [office@twyford.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@twyford.bucks.sch.uk) to inform us. As part of track and trace we need to inform others who have been in contact with a person who has tested positive within 72 hours.

## **Parent Survey Responses**

Thank you for your response to the survey I sent out a couple of weeks ago, we had 51 responses in total. We value all of the thoughtful responses we received and would like to also thank you for the numerous positive comments and recognition for what we are doing to keep the school safe. 86% of parents said that they feel the school has responded well to the pandemic.

We are taking the responses specifically linked to remote learning into account when reviewing our contingency plan should the need arise for 'bubbles' to self-isolate or a full/partial school closure in the future.

In summary we now know:

- 64% of parents would prefer 'live' lessons
- 31% of children have either limited or no access to a computer, laptop or tablet at home
- 15% of households do not have sufficient broadband to support the streaming of videos

We will share any updates to our contingency plan for remote learning shortly after half term.

## **Individual School Photographs**

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November Tempest will be visiting school to take the children's individual school photograph. Unfortunately, this year photographs with siblings will not be possible. If your child has PE on a Tuesday, but you would prefer their photograph to be taken in their usual school uniform, rather than PE kit, please send your child to school that morning wearing their uniform with their PE kit in a bag so that they can get changed after their photograph has been taken.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks once again to all parents who have listened, followed our protocols, shown understanding and provided us with valuable feedback to support with reviewing our routines and procedures.

I wish you all a restful half term break and we look forward to seeing everyone return on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Yours sincerely



Judith Bloomfield  
Headteacher

