



**ST. THOMAS' LEESFIELD C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Thomas Street, Lees, Oldham OL4 5AT

Headteacher: Mrs. P. Glynn

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Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

**New School Year Arrangements  
From Monday 6th September 2021**

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all keeping well and have enjoyed the summer break. Following the government announcement about the lifting of restrictions, I am writing to let you know that it is our intention, from Monday 6th September 2021, to start to return to our normal routines in school, as much as we possibly can. I am sure that this is welcome news, following another very challenging year for schools, children and families.

As always, the safety and wellbeing of our children, families and staff members will continue to be a priority and measures such as frequent handwashing, respiratory hygiene, enhanced cleaning and plenty of ventilation in classrooms will still be in place in line with government guidance. However, we will no longer operate in bubbles and children will be able to mix as normal. School staff will continue to be tested twice each week.

We recognise that some children/families may still feel anxious about COVID-19, but please rest assured that school staff are ready to support children and help them settle back in to a more normal routine next week.

From September, NHS test and trace will be taking over contact tracing responsibilities in schools. Therefore, contacts of a positive case, who are aged under 18 or who have received both doses of the vaccination, will no longer be required to self-isolate. Instead, children and adults will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace (if they are specifically identified by the positive case), informed they have been in close contact and advised to have a PCR test. Only positive cases will need to isolate for ten days, rather than whole class bubbles.

In preparation for the new academic year, please read the following information carefully.

## **Important Information: Please read carefully**

From 6th September 2021:

1. Staggered drop-off and pick-up times will stop and normal school opening times will resume. All pupils should arrive and be ready to line up with their classes when the morning bell goes at **8:55am**. School will end at **3:20pm**. Parents should avoid lingering on the school playgrounds after these times please. School gates will be locked promptly. Reception and Y1 children will be collected from the annexe playground and all other children from the main building playgrounds.

**Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time and is also collected on time. After months of staggered starts, it will be important that all children get back into this routine from day one of the new term.**

2. Children and parents in Year 2 upwards (main building), please use the **double gates on Thomas Street** for drop-off and pick-up. The smaller gate (near the parent entrance to school) will no longer be in use each day.
3. Attendance – school attendance is mandatory and the usual rules on school attendance will continue to apply. Holidays in term-time will not be authorised and should be booked in accordance with the school holiday pattern please.
4. Absences – please notify the school office before 9:30am of all absences and on the third day of absence (if it for more than two days), stating the reason why your child is not in school.
5. Full school uniform should be worn every day, in-line with our uniform expectations. Children should come to school in their PE kits (Y1-Y6) on their PE days. Your child's teacher will inform the children of their PE days when they return to school.
6. School dinners – will continue as normal. Children that usually bring a packed lunch from home should continue to do so. Lunchtimes will no longer be staggered and normal lunchtime routines will resume. Paid dinners must be paid via Pay360 at £2.50 per day, £12.50 per week.
7. Illness – as always we would not expect any parent to send their child to school if they are unwell. Any child that falls ill at school or has possible COVID-19 symptoms will immediately be sent home. Please visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) for more information.
8. Parents wishing to speak to a member of staff, will need to telephone the school office to make an appointment or please write a note in your child's planner. We will deal with all enquiries as quickly as possible.
9. Personal belongings – children's personal belongings should be clearly labelled.

10. Where a child may have to self-isolate, home learning activities will be set by your child's class teacher. This work should be brought into school when your child returns.

11. School visits and extra-curricular clubs will resume/continue in the Autumn Term please read our weekly newsletter (every Friday) for more information about these as and when they are organised.

All of the above arrangements are dependent on infection rates over the summer/start of the new academic year and we will continue to act on advice from the Public Health Team. If, at any point, we need to make any changes to our plans and/or need to reinstate any measures (such as working in bubbles), we will do our best to communicate this to you as soon as possible.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for your support, patience and understanding during this time and for the many kind messages of appreciation. Your children have shown great resilience and have approached the changes in routine over the last year with a positive attitude - this is to be commended.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact us by telephoning the school office or emailing [info@leesfield.oldham.sch.uk](mailto:info@leesfield.oldham.sch.uk).

Kind regards

Mrs P. Glynn  
Headteacher

