



THORNTON HEATH NURSERY SCHOOL
Working in partnership with the Pegasus Academy Trust

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09/06/2020

Dear Parents / Carers

We hope you and your families are safe and well.

You will remember that in my letter to parents regarding the re-opening of Thornton Heath Nursery School we stated that we would be "constantly reviewing the "risks", updating our risk assessments and working in conjunction with Pegasus Academy Trust and the Local Authority in order to safely re-open the nursery before the summer break."

As per Government guidance, the return of children aged 3/4 is to be prioritised, we are therefore making some initial plans for the nursery to partially re-open on the **22nd June 2020**. In order to manage your expectations, we need to make you aware that social distancing for these young children is unrealistic, but we will do our best.

If we do re-open, we are planning to split the children into two groups, limiting the number of children in each group to 15. We plan to utilise the library and the main nursery room. Due to limited places being available we will need to prioritise children's return. At this stage we are planning to open for vulnerable and keyworker children as well as children accessing 30 hours funding.

There are also some key aspects of school reopening which I want to bring to your attention so that you can make an informed decision about your child returning to school:

- Children accessing 30 hours a week will be offered two days a week.
- Children accessing 15 hours a week will be offered two sessions a week.
- Children will be learning in groups of no more than 13 children in all cases, and children will ideally be divided into smaller groups. Children will always remain in these small groups (bubbles). These "bubbles" will be fixed for the whole period and "bubbles", will not mix at any time.
- The staffing of these "bubbles" will be as consistent as possible with the same adults working with the "bubble" unless staff absence makes this impossible
- Your child may not be with their usual keyworker or teaching assistant. This is due to the number of staff currently available to work.
- The classroom layout will be different to support social distancing with many resources unavailable to children for example reading books, all soft furnishings have been removed.

- The curriculum will be different as collaborative group learning will not be possible, children will not be taught with the usual freedom of "free-flow", learning will be timetabled
- Children may see staff wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) where this is required to deal with medical or sickness situations

We will be having staggered start and collection times to support social distancing.

In order to ensure appropriate staffing levels we need to gauge how many children might return on re-opening and I am therefore requesting that you notify the nursery through the keepintouch@THNS.org of your intentions by 3 pm on Monday 15th June 2020. Unfortunately replies after this deadline will not be considered.

If we do not hear back from you we will accept this as confirmation that you will not be sending your child back to the nursery as we re-open. There will not be an opportunity to send your child back at a later date.

We are pleased to offer your child 2 days a week from 8:45 until 15:30

We are pleased to offer your child a part time place twice a week.

The health and safety of your child, your family and our staff is our highest priority. We will do all we can to ensure a safe environment within the limitations of this situation.

Please note that there is **no obligation** for your child to attend nursery if you do not wish them to do so.

With our very best wishes and thank you as always for your continued support.

Jenette and the THNS team