

# COVID-19 Curriculum changes at Thomas Hickman School

Under 'normal' operation, Thomas Hickman School offers a 'Flying Start Curriculum' to all children. This addendum summarises key COVID-19 related changes which are in effect while THS follows government and DfE guidance, implementing changes to reduce transmission either through forced closure or working within year group bubbles.

The way Thomas Hickman School is currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual, so below is an outline of what has currently changed (all adaptations will be reviewed at least half-termly):

- **Trips** – Many venues are still not accepting groups, but due to 'Track and Trace' and year group bubbles, half termly trips will not be operating in the Autumn Term. This will be reviewed in Spring Term / when new guidance is released.

Staff are aware that to support our 'Cultural Capital' they need to think creatively and 'outside the box.' Virtual tours are one way in which we can bring experiences alive. If appropriate, visitors are able to 'Zoom' classes. Teachers will build these ideas into their long term plans to ensure our children are still receiving a breadth of experience.

Parent 'finale days' in Field of Study lessons will be adapted. THS still want Parents and Carers to feel involved, but are unable to invite them into the classrooms. Staff may choose to send photographs home, place information on the website or allow children to take home a finished masterpiece so that their FoS has a finale, giving children's work a real purpose and a goal to work towards.

- **Clubs** – With children being taught in year group bubbles, morning and after-school clubs are not advisable (with the exception of Breakfast Club). Clubs normally contain a mixture of children from different year groups, so this offer is not currently advised due to Government guidelines. This will be reviewed regularly and clubs will start as soon as the risk assessment allows.
- **Soft Start** – Gates will now open in the morning from 8:30am until 9am. A one-way system has been devised and Parents / Carers are free to drop off at any time during this period. Children will be able to enter their classroom where they will complete an early morning activity. Staff will be there to welcome children on the gate. Any parents who wish to discuss concerns with staff are advised to make a telephone conversation or contact through the dl@ email as it is not appropriate to stop on the walkthrough or to engage in face-to-face conversations due to Social Distancing Guidelines.
- **Assemblies** - Assemblies are no longer in the main hall. On a Monday, whole school assembly is delivered via Zoom. Singing assemblies are listening to songs and discussing the lyrics, planned by our singing assembly teacher and shared with all staff. Other assemblies are no longer at a set time of day, but are planned by each teacher to fit in with their class timetable. These assemblies are planned using PowerPoint and link to the main theme of the term therefore reinforcing a consistent message for all. Celebration assembly is whole school via zoom – children will receive their certificate in their classroom and then their 'bird' will be sent to the office to be displayed on our tree.

- **Specialist Teaching** - Specialist teaching is still occurring. Staff are either using Zoom to virtually be in the classroom, with the class TA supporting or working within a bubble for an afternoon as per risk assessments. Where necessary, classes will rotate lessons so might not have a specialist subject every week but teachers will ensure that coverage is equal across the term.
- **The Swoop** - The Swoop is still a key factor in our offer to children. However, children are currently not allowed to mix bubbles. Playtimes have been adapted so only one year group is in any area of the playground at any time. Equipment has been given to each Year group bubble for them to use, which is then disinfected after use.

We are aware that due to Track and Trace or developing symptoms, individual children / bubbles may need to self-isolate for a period of time. If an individual is self-isolating, but their bubble is in school, then children should visit the Thomas Hickman Website where they will find bespoke pieces of work, linked to FOS, English and Maths to complete at home.

If a bubble is self-isolating, a timetable has been arranged for 'live' lessons to be taught. Maths and English will be taught live, however staff may link these to a Core text or to FOS objectives. Online activities will also be set using Google Classroom. Children who require access to a Chrome Book will be loaned one. All children have had dedicated ICT time learning how to navigate Google Classroom, plus an online activity to try at home with their adults.

Our curriculum is '**contagious**' because we want all children to 'catch' learning – there is nowhere to hide from it, every minute of every day is a learning opportunity.

It is '**courageous**' because we won't narrow the curriculum to isolate 'Maths and English' lessons, and we won't teach to tests. We will not stop the curriculum in the Spring term to 'cram' for SATs. We will be brave and deliver PE or wider curriculum lessons first thing in the morning if we choose and consider how English and Maths can be incorporated into these.

It remains our priority at Thomas Hickman School to continue to be Contagious and Courageous in our curriculum provision. School leaders maintain their high expectations for all children despite time lost due to forced closure however, we will resist the temptation to narrow our curriculum in an attempt to 'catch-up'. Instead we will look for creative, innovative opportunities to support our children in making progress across the curriculum, ensuring their emotional well-being is at the centre of our plans.