



IMPORTANT PARENT INFORMATION FOR BACK TO SCHOOL at PLATTSVILLE & DISTRICT PS!!!

We are so excited to welcome back our returning Plattsville Panthers, students and families both! We also want to give a huge 'welcome to Plattsville' to our new Panthers and their families! We're excited to have you join us!

Staff have been working hard to prepare for your children to return next week. The first few days will be an opportunity to re-connect and establish new relationships with peers and staff, and also about learning new routines for both inside and outside of the classroom.

First Day of School

With the exception of our new Junior Kindergarteners, all students will return to school on **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7** at 9:00 am. September 6 is a Professional Activity Day this year in order to comply with mandatory training for staff! JK families should have received information directly regarding their child's gradual entry. If you have any questions, please contact the school office. Class lists will not be posted. Students will be picked up by their new teachers at their grade locations on Wednesday morning.

Daily Schedule

Our school day runs from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Please note that there will only be supervision before and after school for 10 minutes each. Students should not arrive early unless accompanied by an adult. Playground equipment and fields are 'out of bounds' right before and after school.

8:50 – 9:00	Arrival/Supervision on Yard
9:00 – 9:20	Period 1
9:20 – 10:00	Period 2
10:00 – 10:40	Period 3
10:40 – 11:00	Nutrition Break (JK-3) / Recess (4-8)
11:00 – 11:25	Recess (JK-3) / Nutrition Break (4-8)
11:25 – 11:45	Period 4
11:45 – 12:25	Period 5
12:25 – 1:05	Period 6
1:05 – 1:30	Nutrition Break (JK-3) / Recess (4-8)
1:30 – 1:50	Recess (JK-3) / Nutrition Break (4-8)
1:50 – 2:30	Period 7
2:30 – 3:10	Period 8
3:10 – 3:30	Period 9
3:30 – 3:40	Dismissal/Supervision on Yard

*Bus dismissal 3:20 – 3:30

First Day Procedures

1. The yard will be set up in “grade zones” where students will gather on their first day only between 8:50 and 9:00 am. Staff will pick up students to accompany them to their new classroom. Please see the aerial map provided for the various zones. Parents, visitors and volunteers are not able to enter the building with students. Climbers and playing fields will not be open before school for students.
2. Bus students will be met by a staff member and directed/escorted to their zone. Buses will be dropping students off at the front of the school and then students will walk around the school outside to their grade zone.
3. Should we experience rain on the first day, we will still meet in our grade zones, but students will be brought inside as they arrive to their grade zones as quickly as possible and will gather in the gym to meet their new teachers. It is recommended to bring an umbrella and dress appropriately for the rainy weather if necessary.
4. At the end of the day, adults may pick up their students on the yard or arrange for a meeting location near the lower parking lot area. We ask that you do not use playground equipment after school until after 4:00 pm.

***NOTE: Following their first day, students will be entering the yard and will go directly to their class line area when they arrive at school. Supervision will be from 8:50 – 9:00 am only. Students will not be permitted to play on climbers or play in the yard before or after school. Students will have access to hand sanitizer and may choose to wear masks in the building.**

School Access Procedures

All doors of the school must remain locked throughout the day. Students will enter the school only through their designated doors. Please make an appointment with the office if you need to meet or speak with a staff member.

For late arrivals after 9:00 am, please bring your child to the front door and ring the doorbell next to the library book return chute to wait for a staff member to sign in your child at the office. They will then be accompanied to their classroom (if necessary)

Between 9:00 am and 3:30 pm, we will continue to utilize the outdoor space extensively for learning zones, recess zones and gym zones. For the safety of all students we ask that parents/caretakers leave the school grounds as soon as possible following student entry.

Parking Lot

The school parking lot will be unavailable from 8:45 – 9:15 am and 3:15 – 3:45 pm for visitors to allow our buses and their occupants to enter and exit safely. Cars are not permitted to ‘pass’ buses when they are parked in our lot. Parking will be limited due as it is not available on the road. Please park in the lower lot if possible when dropping off or picking up your children.

Early Exit Expectations

In order to minimize disruptions to our classrooms, we ask that parents/caretakers communicate with the classroom teachers and/or office early in the day if your child needs to leave before 3:30 dismissal. Please be specific about the time they will be picked up, and who will be picking them up. For students being picked up early, they will be dismissed from the front door. Please let us know you are here by ringing the front doorbell or phoning from your car when you arrive. Unless previously arranged with the office, students will not be dismissed on their own before 3:30 pm.

If students are able to return later in the day from an appointment, they will need to be signed in at the office before returning to class.

Lunch

It is encouraged that all students stay at school for lunch when possible. If your child does need to leave the property during a nutrition break (we would recommend 2nd break), they will require a written note from home each day to 'sign out' and will need to be back before their entry bell. Students going home for lunch will need to be 'signed in' at the front office and will not be permitted into the 'recess zone'.

In order to reduce waste and to limit movement in the classrooms during our lunch breaks, we are recommending that students bring 'litterless' lunches to school as much as possible. Please make sure containers are labelled. Students will not have access to microwaves or fridges at school.

At this time, our Nutrition Program (free healthy snacks for all students) and Hot Lunch fundraisers will be starting up in a few weeks. When they begin again, you will be notified in advance.

Injuries or Illnesses

Please do not send your child to school with an illness or injury. As always, we will be unable to administer non-prescription medication at school.

If your child is injured during the day, we will perform *minor* first aid, contact you, and may ask that they be picked up immediately, if needed.

If your child experiences illness or 'atypical' symptoms for a known medical issue at school, they will be isolated with supervision, and we will call to ask that they be picked up immediately. If Covid is suspected, the school does have some rapid antigen testing kits available if requested. Please let your child's educator know of any 'typical' health issues your child may have that might have similar characteristics to Covid-related illnesses (e.g., related to allergies, anxiety, etc.).

Visitors to the school

Parents/Guardians/Visitors/Volunteers will be allowed in the school by appointment only. All items (including lunches) that children need should be sent with them at the beginning of each day. If there is an emergency item (medication or food), we will ask you to ring the doorbell at the front of the school or call us in the office (phone number posted on the door) to receive the item.

Outdoor Learning

All classes will be participating in as much outdoor learning as possible again this year. **Please make sure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather, including boots and umbrellas on misty days.**

Items from Home

Please limit the number of items that come back and forth between school to a backpack, lunch, clothing and school purpose items. Any items required for students to do their work in class are supplied by the school. A list of these items has been provided below. Your child's teacher(s) may have additional, **optional** items that they request from time to time

If students have indoor shoes (for gym and classroom use), these may be kept at school or brought back and forth in backpacks. Cubbies and hooks will be available during the day for student use.

Please do not send toys or playground equipment from home. These cannot be stored at the school and the school is not responsible for lost or damaged items. There are recess items available for all students to borrow in each hallway.

Please send a litterless lunch as much as possible to reduce the movement during eating times back and forth to garbage cans.

Please send a filled, labelled water bottle to school each day. Fountains will continue to be closed until they can be properly inspected. We do have one water bottle filling station that is open for students who need to refill their bottle during the school day.

Additional Precautions

Students will continue to be encouraged to follow proper hand hygiene procedures before and after sharing materials, before eating, and when using the washroom facilities. HEPA filters have been provided for large spaces where the opening of windows is not possible.

While masks are no longer mandatory for students, they are still encouraged when students are in larger groups indoors. There will be some staff and students who continue to choose to wear masks.

Please see further information in the email sent by TVDSB on August 29, 2022 (reprinted below).

Communication

Our main form of communication will be via School Messenger email. It is imperative that we have your correct email address, so we are sure you are getting our up-to-date messages. As they come from a 'no reply' email address, please check your 'junk mail' to make sure you haven't missed something. We will also post to our school website (<https://plattsville.tvdsb.ca/en/index.aspx>) and private Facebook page (search Plattsville & District Public School PDPS) where appropriate.

We are hoping to limit the amount of paper that goes back and forth between home and school. Classroom staff will let you know the best way to communicate with them in the first week of school.

Make sure to sign up for and check the Parent Portal regularly. Vital information about registration, achievement and busing is disseminated through the portal. If you are having difficulty, please contact the main office.

If you require a conversation with a teacher or administrator, please call to set up a telephone call or Teams (online) meeting.

School Aged Program

Oxford Community Child Care will be providing the Before and After School program again this year. They will be using the Music Room for their program this year. Please contact them directly if you have questions about the program. <http://oxfordccc.ca> or 519-539-4419

Supporting A Healthy Return to School

TVDSB and Wellkin Child and Youth Mental Wellness have collaborated to provide some tips, conversation starters and resources to support your child's healthy return to school.

Here are links for three videos you may wish to review and share with your child.

Why Do We Lose Control of Our Emotions - <https://youtu.be/3bKuoH8CkFc>

Meet Riley's Emotions - <https://youtu.be/1S0RKRRyqhQ>

Cookie Monster Practices Self-Regulation - https://youtu.be/j0YDE8_jsHk

Here is a list of conversation starters that may help your child focus on moving forward in the new school year.

- Who are you looking forward to connecting with this school year?
- What is one thing you're hoping to do during the school year?
- How are you feeling about this school year?
- What's one thing you feel excited for?
- Is there anything you feel a bit worried about?
- How can I help you to feel comfortable about school?
- What is an exciting thing that happened today? (focus on positives and strengths)

Below is a list of the Crisis/Support agencies, information about the Parent and Caregiver hub.

If you are in crisis or need support...

Under 18 Years Old:

Crisis:

- Call Wellkin's main number at **1-877-539-0463** and our team will assist you
- Or Call Kids Help Phone 24/7 at 1-800-668-6868
- Or Text Kids Help Phone 24/7 by texting CONNECT to 686868

Therapy Services: To access Wellkin's Therapy Services, contact us Monday through Thursday (8:30am-4:30pm) or Friday (8:30am-4:00pm) at 1-877-539-0463 and a member of our team will guide you through the intake process or you can fill out an online referral form at www.wellkin.ca

18 Years Old and Above:

Crisis and Other Services Information:

- Contact Reach Out (CMHA) 24/7 at 1-866-933-2023
- Or Contact Reach Out (CMHA) 24/7 through webchat at www.reachout247.ca or through text at 519-433-2023

Services through CMHA Oxford (Groups, Peer Support, Case Management and More):

- Contact 519-539-8055 or 1-800-859-7248 on Monday to Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm

Thank You

Once again, we have appreciated your support and patience as this school year begins. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have additional questions or concerns.

The 2022-2023 Staff of PDPS!



hyperlinks to "Aerial Map" and websites embedded in message by clicking on blue underlined text

School Supplies provided by PDPS

Pencils	Erasers	Markers	Crayons
Pencil Crayons	Glue Sticks	Scissors	Notebooks
Paper	Duotangs/Folders	Tape	Highlighters
Post It Notes			

Highly Encouraged but not required School Supplies

Pencil Case/Box	Backpack	Running Shoes (indoor gym)
Water Bottle (labeled, filled at home, can be refilled at school)		

Helpful but not required Supplies

Personal box of Kleenex	Personal Hand Sanitizers (preferably unscented)
Pens (Gr. 4-8 only)	Personal Pencil Sharpener (with container)

FROM TVDSB originally sent August 29, 2022

Dear TVDSB Families and Caregivers,

We hope that this summer has been an opportunity for you to relax and enjoy time together with family, friends and your community.

We are excited that students are getting back to the experiences and discoveries that make school so special, laughing with friends, building connections with their teachers and engaging in hands-on learning.

As we prepare for the year ahead, we have a few updates to provide you.

First Day of School for Students

Elementary and Secondary classes will begin on Wednesday, September 7, 2022.

In order to comply with mandatory training for staff, Tuesday, September 6, 2022, is a Professional Activity Day; therefore, students begin classes on Wednesday, September 7, 2022.

Health and Safety Measures

Thames Valley remains committed to ensuring the health and safety of staff and students is our priority. Following Ministry of Education guidelines and in collaboration with our local public health units, the following protocols will be in place for this school year:

- We **strongly encourage students and staff wear masks in our schools**. We know that masking continues to be an effective way to disrupt the transmission of the virus and is recommended by our local public health units.
- **Masks will be provided to students and staff** at school or on student transportation.
- **Hand sanitizer and regular hand hygiene** will continue to be encouraged.
- The Ministry of Health continues to provide a Provincial Self-Assessment and **Screening Tool** for families who wish to consult this in order to determine next steps for students who may be unwell. This tool is recommended for daily use prior to attending school. It is always encouraged that students who are unwell remain home until they are well enough to return to school.
- **Significant improvements have been made to ventilation and filtration** which includes improvements to existing ventilation systems, **deployment of portable HEPA filter units to every occupied instructional space**.
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Student and Family Mental Health and Well-Being Resources

This year, we continue to work with our community to support wellness for students, families and staff. As such, Thames Valley has collaborated with community partners to provide the following resources for families to support positive mental health and wellness:

- [Supporting Every Student's Mental Health, Well-Being and Achievement](#) video series for parents and caregivers
- [Family Well-Being Community Workshops Series](#)
- *Together in the Valley*: TVDSB's Mental Health & Well-Being Newsletter for [students](#) and [families](#)

We look forward to many exciting and enriching activities this year in Thames Valley schools!

Please enjoy this welcome back message from Thames Valley Director of Education, Mark

Fisher: <https://youtu.be/BJwNDG1n4us>

Enjoy the remaining days of summer!

Sincerely,

Senior Administration

Thames Valley District School Board