



Saint Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy



(St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi Academy Trust)
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Love one Another as I have Loved You
John 13:34

Headteacher: Mrs C Crosse

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs A Slater

14th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am attaching some further medical information which will hopefully help if you or a family member develop symptoms. Thank you to the families that have used the new testing e-mail to notify us of test results. I am pleased to say all children and adults tested so far have been negative at St Thomas More. There is a nasty cold and sore throat going around. Please do not send children into school with Coronavirus symptoms.

Celebration assembly

As we are unable to have parents and families into school to our weekly celebration assembly, I will put their names in the weekly newsletter. Celebration assembly will be via MS teams each Friday at 2.40.

★ Stars of the week! ★				
Mrs O'Brien	Mrs Whitehead	Mrs Wheat & Mrs Whitmore	Mrs Broomhead	
Kaiden Evie Gabriela	Udham Preston Orla Ryan	Jorja Sefania	Kayan Olivia	
Mrs Lambert	Mr Rowlinson	Mrs Ramsell & Mrs Cummins	Miss Pereira	Mr Plant
Simona Milo	Nathan Marco	Alicja Oscar	Sean Orla	Klaudia Agbon Arthur

Attendance Trophy: Mr Rowlinson's class

Social distancing

All parents and families waiting outside of school must socially distance. I strongly suggest that all adults that come to school wear a face mask as it can be difficult to keep 2M distance at all times.





Please can only ONE parent come with children to school. This is to reduce the number of adults around school.

I am still waiting to hear if we have been successful in closing Newstead Road for the beginning and the end of the school day.

Mixed classes and maths

At St Thomas More we have an intake of 40 children per year group this means we always have and always will have mixed year classes. As I stated in previous e-mails, children that are mixed classes are not held back a year, are not in those classes because we think they will not cope with their year group, it is simply because we have to have classes of 30 and therefore some classes will have mixed year groups. Children will be taught the objectives from their year group, for example, a Year 4 child in the Year 3/4 class will be assessed against the objectives from the National curriculum for Year 4. Our teachers are very skilled at ensuring that children are challenged, supported and reach the appropriate end points for their year group.

This year we are not using the Maths No problem programme to teach maths, instead we are using the White Rose Mastery approach. This has very detailed planning and support for mixed year classes and so children will be taught within their classes and not year groups.

Breakfast club and Afterschool club

I am pleased we are able to offer breakfast club from today. Thank you for your patience with this. I will be monitoring this club.

I will be reviewing the afterschool club by 21st September to see if we can offer this club before October half term.

Lunchtimes

Unfortunately, the Parent Pay system is still not fully up and running yet, so parents are not able to make food choices at home. We will continue to ask the children each morning which food option they would like and staff will ensure children get the correct food. I will send further information when this is possible.

Attendance

From 1st September attendance at school will be **mandatory**. The children in EYFS will be in school full time from Thursday 3rd September.

DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS.

For further information please refer to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Admissions applications for Autumn Term 2021

Children are admitted to the school in September of the year in which they have their fifth birthday. If there is anyone who wishes to apply for a place for September 2021 (d.o.b. 01.09.2016 – 31.08.2017) You must complete a supplementary form which can be found on the school website:

<https://www.thomasmoreprimary.org.uk/statutory-information/admissions>

There is also a requirement to fill in an LA form before January 15th 2021. This form can be found at

<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-and-colleges/school-admissions/starting-school/>

Secondary school admissions Autumn term 2021

For children in Year 6, applications must be received by 31st October 2020.

<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-and-colleges/school-admissions/starting-secondary-school/>

God bless,
Mrs Crosse

Covid-19 related pupil absence

A quick reference guide for parents and staff (September 2020)

What to do if...	Action Needed	Return to school when...
...my child has Covid-19 symptoms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school - Contact school to inform us - Self-isolate the whole household - Get a test - Inform the school immediately about the test result 	...the test comes back negative or a period of 10 days has passed since the symptoms started, and the child feels well.
...my child tests positive for Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school. - Contact school to inform us. - Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 10 days). - Self-isolate the whole household. 	...10 days have passed since symptoms began, even if they still have a cough or loss of taste/smell. <i>(These symptoms can last for several weeks.)</i> AND the child feels well.
...my child tests negative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact school to inform us. - Discuss when your child can come back (same day/next day). 	...the test comes back negative.
...my child is ill with symptoms not linked to Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school. - Contact school to inform us. - Ring on each day of illness. 	...after 48 hours following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea (as per attendance policy)
...someone in my household has Covid-19 symptoms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school. - Contact school to inform us. - Self-isolate the whole household. - Household member to get a test. - Inform school immediately about test result. 	...the test comes back negative.
...someone in my household tests positive for Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school. - Contact school to inform us. - Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 14 days). - Self-isolate the whole household. 	...the child has completed 14 days of isolation.
...NHS test and trace has identified my child as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school. - Contact school to inform us. - Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 14 days). 	...the child has completed 14 days of isolation.
...NHS test and trace has identified a household member (other than my child) as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The household member must self-isolate for 14 days. - Child can continue to attend school. 	...child can continue to attend school
... a sibling attending another school has been sent home to self-isolate due to their being a positive case in their school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sibling must self-isolate for 14 days. - the schools' child(ren) can continue to attend. 	...child can continue to attend school
... my child has travelled abroad from a country or territory that is NOT on the exempt list of countries.	<p>If returning from a destination where quarantine is needed*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - minimum of 14 days self-isolation for all those who travelled. - contact school to inform us you are back in the country and we will agree an earliest date for possible return to school. - Self-isolate the whole household. <p>*Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) – for up to date travel information</p>	...the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed.

<p>... my child has travelled abroad from a country or territory that IS on the exempt list of countries.</p>	<p>If returning from a destination where quarantine is NOT needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check the current Exempt countries and territories list to confirm the country you have travelled from or through is on the exempt list. - Ring school to inform us you have returned to the UK and agree a return date to school. 	<p>... you have informed the office of your return to the UK (<i>the office will ask you a few questions about your travel</i>).</p>
<p>...I have travelled from a country that requires us to quarantine (but my child didn't travel).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As long as you do not have / have not had symptoms in the last 14 days, your child can continue to attend school. - The person who has travelled MUST NOT leave the house, including to do pick-ups and drop offs (<i>please contact school if you need support getting your child to school</i>). 	<p>...child can continue to attend school</p>
<p>...we have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school. - Contact school to inform us. - Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again. 	<p>...school inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again. ...you receive medical advice that your child may return to school.</p>
<p>...my child's bubble is closed due to a Covid-19 outbreak in school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child must not come to school. - Support your child at home with remote education provided by your school. - Your child will need to self-isolate for 14 days. - Other siblings may continue to attend school. 	<p>...school inform you that the bubble will be reopened.</p>
<p>... I am unable to get a test for someone in the household who has symptoms</p>	<p><i>If you are not able to get a test in the first 5 days of having symptoms, your child and anyone they live with must stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days. Anyone in your support bubble must also stay at home.</i></p>	<p>...the child has completed 14 days of isolation.</p>

Supporting staff and parents when children have a cough

Is the cough a **new, continuous cough** - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more **prolonged** coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

Yes

1. Do they have a temperature?

Yes

YES

- The child stays off and needs a test, they should remain off until the result comes back. Let the school know the result asap.
- Siblings should go home to isolate to
- if negative and temperature is back to normal they can return with a cough.
- If positive they should isolate for 10 days from the start of the symptoms and rest of household should isolate for 14 days.

No

No

Do they have a sore throat, runny nose or sinus congestion? Very likely to be cold related, check the cough fits the defined for prolonged if yes remain off school and get a test. If no they can come to school

No

No

Could it be it hayfever related? if yes try antihistamine medication. If cough eases with medication then they can return and no test needed.

No

Not prolonged as defined

They can come to school and no test needed.