



— ST THOMAS —  
**AQUINAS**  
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



16/10/2020

Dear Parents/ Carers and Pupils at St Mary's,

I hope you and your families are well.

We have arrived at the end of this half term, not of course in the way we anticipated, but at least with half term, the children did not miss too much direct teaching. I thank you for your support for the classes learning at home this week and for your understanding and wishes for the staff recovering at home. Staff are recovering well and are following all the guidelines. I am delighted that we were able to stay open, following public health advice for the Year Six class, who have shown great enthusiasm and resilience, as have the children learning at home and thank the Year Six parents for the great attendance of their children and all parents for the trust placed in the school procedures. I have spoken to so many parents on the phone this week and am very appreciative of your understanding and help.

The children have achieved wonderfully this term, despite all the restrictions and assessment has shown that they are catching up, after the lock-down period, but at the same time due to the well-being procedures and care in school have shown strong resilience and happiness. There has been tremendous creativity in school, superb physical exercise and I have witnessed the increased confidence of all children, who have seemed very happy to be back with their friends. Your feedback this week on how to improve the school's provision for remote learning has been very valuable and further actions will be put in place for this.

The risk assessments and procedures in school have been thoroughly examined and further measures added to mitigate risks. The school will have a deep clean over the half term by a specialist cleaning company, who use a specialised Covid fogging technique to deep sanitise the school. This will ensure that the school is completely ready and safe to welcome back all the children on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October. As before children and staff will only stay to their class bubbles, with further precautions of limiting staff who may have had a role outside of 1 class bubble. All children will need to wear the Winter uniform (shirt and tie) after the half term, but can continue to wear their PE kit on their PE days. (As it is becoming colder- black or navy blue track suits are better.) Please continue to bring water bottles and book bags, but no rucksacks.

Neil Lockyer, the CEO has sent a letter to all parents of our Academy schools. This will be on the home and class pages of the website and sent on the app. There is a phone number to call, if your child tests positive for Covid 19 over the half term, so you can be advised on procedures. As you will

see from the letter, there has been a rapid rise in Covid cases across our Academy schools this week and in the Charnwood District.

As planned, the staggered start and end times to the day will need to remain, as will all the other restrictions set at the beginning of this Academic Year. The entrances and exits for drop off and collection points remain the same, as do Reception and Year One times. Please note the changes below for the other year groups. This has been changed in consultation with the staff, feedback from parents and observations of when parents and children arrive. With Covid cases rising in the Charnwood area, we strongly encourage parents to keep to timings and not mix classes, keeping your distance to each other when waiting.

Reception: front entrance Hasting Street 9a.m - 2.50p.m

Year One: Front entrance Hasting Street 8.50a.m - 3p.m

Year Two: Hasting Street Gate: 8.50-3p.m

Year Three: Hasting Street Gate: 8.40a.m-3.15p.m

Year Four: Junior Gate on Ashby Road :8.40a.m -3.15p.m

Year Five: Junior Gate on Ashby Road: 8.50a.m – 3.10p.m

Year Six: Junior gate on Ashby Road: 8.45a.m -3p.m

I look forward to welcoming all the children back on Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> of October, where we have an exciting curriculum and safe activities planned. It is a privilege to work with amazing families, who have shown such great resilience and flexibility in very difficult times.

On behalf of the staff at St Mary's, I wish you a blessed and restful half term.

Miss Jordan

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".

Head teacher

St Mary's Catholic Primary School