

# St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

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*With Christ we **Achieve**, **Believe** and **Create***

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

Firstly, I apologise for the lateness of this letter, but I am sure you will appreciate the ever-changing conditions we are operating under. Following Union guidance that teachers and TAs are not safe in school, staff have had to make individual decisions re their own safety and that of their families, and this has taken time. The situation for at least the rest of this week is that the school will be open to all year groups except nursery. Before and After school club will not run until further notice.

Mrs Oceana Gil is required to shield and therefore we have employed a supply teacher- Ms Winnifrith, to take the Yr 3 class.

As you know, the new variant is spreading more quickly, so we have had to take additional precautions. In updating our Risk Assessment, we have changed the way that children enter and leave school so that parents do not enter the school grounds. Yrs 4, 5 and 6 will enter and leave as usual. Yrs 1, 2 and 3 will line up with their teacher, just inside the main gate, in the morning. They will also be dismissed from the same area. Reception children will enter and leave through the wooden nursery side gate. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT CHILDREN ARRIVE AND ARE COLLECTED PROMPTLY** so that the systems work. Arrival through the front entrance is very much discouraged to keep our office staff safe. Unfortunately, there will be no opportunity to deliver forgotten items to class.

It is very important that you **stay 2m away from anyone outside of your household bubble**, so please adhere to this in the school car park and only arrive close to your drop off/ collection time. The whole school community needs to stick to the rules to keep us all safe.

Whereas, we would normally encourage you to send your child to school if they are slightly unwell, I would now ask you to keep your child at home if they are not well. Please also get a COVID test if you think it may be Covid-19 related. Where one member of the household has been told to self-isolate due to close contact with a positive case, the remainder of the household can go about their normal business. However, if anyone in the household is showing symptoms **THE WHOLE HOUSEHOLD MUST ISOLATE** until a negative test result is received, or ten days have passed.

Please dress children more warmly as classrooms will be well- ventilated, making it cooler.

In the event of school closure, we will be providing Critical Worker childcare. The list of those eligible is here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision> . We will send out a Google form in due course.

Please e-mail the school office should you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Mrs Tomkys

Principal

