



ST THOMAS
CE (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL

2nd September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,




I hope you have all enjoyed your summer, we are looking forward to welcoming your children back to school next week.

Please forgive the lengthiness of this letter! There is lots of information to share as we start the new school year. Much of this will be duplicated on the 'latest information' tab our website: stthomas.org.uk

I am thrilled to announce the appointment of Mrs Cat Goddard as Deputy Head Teacher, she fulfilled the 'acting' position last year and I am so pleased that it has become her permanent role.

As I shared with you before the holiday; it is lovely to be able to consider our plans for this year without the constant pressure of covid restrictions. However it is important that I am open and honest regarding the back up plans we have been told to prepare. It is now a requirement that we have both a remote learning policy and an outbreak contingency plan in place. The remote learning is for children who are absent due to Covid, but feel well enough to work. The outbreak contingency plan would only be used on the advice of Kirklees, if there was a significant rise in local or school based cases.

In September

<p>When should my child self-isolate or miss school?</p> 	<p> NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children MUST attend school unless they are ill. From 16th August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact, has Covid. Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school so long as they have no symptoms and the test result is negative.
	<p> YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should <u>stay at home</u> and should book a PCR test), NOT a Lateral Flow test. If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book them a PRC test. If your child tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.

Facemasks – we ask everyone to apply common sense and courtesy - though they may no longer be required, they are still advised in busy places. You may find many staff and parents still choose to wear them around school and on the yard, this choice comes from care and respect for others and to reduce general risk.



Lunches –all children will be eating in the dining room but we are introducing measures limiting mixing across year groups/cohorts and ensuring eating areas are well ventilated.



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Drop Off and Pick Up – we are able to return to a less complicated system				
	Start	End	Entrance/Exit	
Nursery	12:15	3:15	Own classroom doors	
Reception	840-850	3:00		
KS1	840-850	3:00	Year 1 & Year 2 will use the KS1 playground door	AM: Meet and Greet staff will welcome children as they arrive ensure children make their way to class PM: Staff will bring the line of children onto the yard and once all children have been collected are available for informal catch-ups
Year 1				
Year 2				
KS2	840-850	3:05	Year 3,4 & 6	
Year 3			Front KS2 playground door	
Year 4				
Year 5			KS1 Playground Door	
Year 6			Front KS2 playground door At the end of the day Year 6 will exit from the main entrance	

Please note pupils arriving after 8:50am will all need to come through the main door and be signed in.

Staffing – officially this will no longer have any covid restraints. However we are applying common sense and caution and limiting mixing to cohorts where possible. (Cohorts are EYFS, KS1 Lower KS2 and Upper KS2). We can still expect some disruption and increased absences as covid rates expectedly rise. All positive cases will still need to isolate, and any non-vaccinated close contact staff would still need to isolate.

Homework – Much of homework will remain on line but we will be reintroducing reading and library books. We need to maintain and celebrate our use of Seesaw and other learning platforms as we will still be expected to provide remote leaning for individuals at home and as part of our contingency plan.

LFT testing, Staff will still be testing up to the end of September, children under 11 are not asked to test but you may wish to complete them as they return to school in September and or if cases occur in your household/social groups.

Uniform- full uniform will be expected in September. We love seeing the children wearing our logo shirts and jumpers but we do recognize these are more costly, so fully understand if you have chosen plain versions or a mix of both.



PE Kits - the wearing of PE kits on PE days has saved us much timewasting and been very effective so we will continue with this in September




Bags- we will continue to encourage children to leave bags at home (it has saved so much space and clutter in the classrooms!), please only bring compact packed lunches and simple book bags if needed. **NO BACKPACKS.**



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What happens if there is a covid case in school?

St Thomas CE (VC) Primary **MANAGING COVID CASES IN SCHOOL**



Number of Cases:	Description:	Actions:
 A single child tests Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A single child tests positive for Covid in a class. There are fewer than 5 cases in the year group. No other year groups are affected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The child self-isolates for 10 days. Remote learning will be provided if they are well enough to complete it The parents of the child are contacted directly by NHS Track and Trace to establish likely contacts. Likely contacts will be contacted by NHS Track & Trace and advised to book at PRC Test. The school will contact parents to advise this if close contacts are known. Children do not need to miss school or self-isolate whilst they wait for the result of the PCR test unless they have Covid Symptoms.
 5 children or staff within a year group test positive within 10 days of each other. OR 3 children or staff in a single class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been 5 cases of Covid across a year group within 10 days which could mean that Covid is spreading within that group of children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above for each positive case. The school will discuss the outbreak with Kirklees Public Health and agree strengthening protective measures <u>for 10 school days</u>, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-introducing staff face masks for corridors & communal areas. Adapting, Limiting or postponing indoor sporting events, trips, open days and performances. Reverting to video-link Assemblies in classrooms. Reducing the amount of classes staff work across where possible Resuming twice-weekly Staff Lateral flow testing. (after September)
 Covid cases continue to increase rapidly within a 10 day period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite the measures indicated above, Covid cases within the school continue to rise within a 10 day period with multiple classes and staff affected, suggesting that Covid is spreading widely throughout the school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incident Management Team meeting held between the school and Kirklees Public Health to agree further measures, <u>for a further 10 school days</u>, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-introducing class bubbles. Reverting to class-based school lunches. Limiting all non-essential visitors to school. Postponing all non-essential events. Re-introducing remote learning for individual classes for 10 school days will be considered



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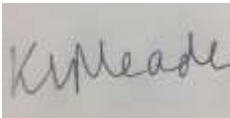
How will school respond to community covid cases?

St Thomas CE (VC) Primary Responding to community data

Community Covid Risk	Description	Actions
 Low Community Transmission. No School Cases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been no cases of Covid within school for 10 school days. Cases of Covid locally are low and/ or stable. Hospitalisation/ Deaths due to Covid nationally are low. 	<p>No Covid measures are necessary beyond:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reminding children of good hand-hygiene. Ensuring good ventilation encouraged where practical. Ensuring Children / Staff to stay at home if they have Covid Symptoms (and to book a PCR test). <p>Staff will continue to test themselves using Lateral flow tests until the end of September.</p>
 Rapidly Rising Community Transmission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No current Covid cases have been recorded at school, but... Cases of Covid are rising rapidly in the community causing disruption to other local schools. Kirklees Public Health / Public Health England issue warnings of expected local/ national infection wave. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ventilation of classrooms increased & hand-washing supervised. Large indoor public performance audience numbers reduced. Reduced Staff-room capacity is recommended Whole-school assemblies are replaced with Key Stage assemblies and or virtual assemblies Clinically Vulnerable staff meet with Line-Managers to review their individual risk assessment & discuss additional protection (e.g. use of face coverings, reduction in movement between classes/ groups).

If you have any questions or concerns please email parents@stthomas.org.uk or see either myself or Mrs Goddard on the yard next week at drop off and pick up.

Thank You



Kate Meade
Head Teacher