



**Newsletter – Issue 12**  
**Week Commencing – 30 November 2020**  
**St Thomas More Catholic Primary, A Voluntary Academy**  
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South Yorkshire is now in Tier 3: see what this means for you and your family below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-54630541>

Testing those who are symptomatic of Covid19 is a key strategy in managing and reducing the spread of the virus.

Detailed below is the government guidance on what the symptoms are of Covid19:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

In line with DFE guidance, anyone who is symptomatic we are asking that they are tested. Please note period of isolation for the person with symptoms is 10 days from the start of symptoms, a household member would need to isolate for 14 days.

School has received guidance from the Local Authority, which states that where families will not engage with the testing process of Covid19, school will not be able to authorise the absence and as such, no schoolwork will be provided during the period of absence.

**Important Dates:**

**NEW DATES ADDED:**

None this week

**FUTURE DATES FOR  
YOUR DIARY:**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Year 5 'Crime & Punishment  
Through Time' online workshop**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**  
**School Christmas Dinner**  
**Christmas Jumper Day**  
**Live Virtual Pantomime**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021**  
**Year 6 trip to Crucial Crew**

We really are so appreciative of everyone's understanding and support in implementing protective measures to help reduce the spread of the virus. We realise there are many things to remember!

Here is a reminder of the key protective measures we are asking you to follow. (Please do not be offended if school staff remind you regarding the below, it is about working together to help stop the spread of the virus).

Here is a reminder of the key protective measures we are asking you to follow. (Please do not be offended if school staff remind you regarding the below, it's about working together to help stop the spread of the virus)

- Please keep 2m apart from anyone not in your household- this helps to limit the spread of the virus. There are 2m markings throughout the school site to support this.
- **Please wear a face mask/covering on school site unless you are exempt.**
- Please keep your child/children with you at all times- this supports the protective bubble we have in place in school.
- Although we love to chat to our families, in order to keep lines moving, please phone/email or send a note into school with any messages, for staff.
- Only 1 parent/carer per family to come on school site at drop off/pick up times- this helps to keep the number of people on school site at any one time to a minimum.

**Jesus said: "Love one another as I have loved you."**

At St Thomas More our Mission is to love and to become the wonderful person God created us to be.

# WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

Do not forget to pre-order Christmas Dinner on SchoolGrid - **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020.**

Schools for Bethlehem project have set up a Just Giving page, the link is below if you would like to donate:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/schoolsforbethlehem>

Please can all sponsorship forms & money be handed into school by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. We will let you know how much we have raised 😊

## Tuck Shop – Spring Term

We are continuing with the Tuck Shop of Fridays after Christmas, within the Class Bubbles in the same way as we have during the Autumn term since returning in September.

To further reduce the amounts of cash being received in school we are trying a slightly different payment method on ParentMail. A new payment item has been added which will operate in a similar way to the Breakfast Club.

Parents/Carers can put money on the account as necessary and each week when any of the children have tuck shop 40p will be deducted from the balance.

Whilst we are discouraging cash, being sent into school, if any is received it will be added to the child's account balance and then deducted weekly. Once a child's balance gets low, parents/carers will be notified so that accounts can be topped up. Both tuck shop and breakfast club are available in the **Accounts** section of ParentMail, not the payments section. If you have any queries regarding tuck shop or need help making payments please contact the school office.



## Advent Events



As you will know, this time in our school year would normally be one of advent liturgies, nativities and other performances, all of which we would share as a school community. Unfortunately due to current restrictions we are working under, we are only going to be able to undertake some of our traditional advent events and these will be done in very different ways. Our children will, as always, continue to be exposed throughout Advent, to the key stories, messages and events that make up this wonderful season of the church's year. The lockdown, which only ended yesterday, prevented anyone who was not a professional actor/singer etc from undertaking rehearsals of any kind. This has therefore left the school with an extremely short window of time to undertake any kind of preparations for advent events etc and compounded with bubble closures, has meant that we are unable to offer all of these events this academic year. Our children will still take part in a Christingle service, within their own bubble and this will now be on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. We have had enquiries from parents regarding if this will be live streamed/filmed. We are bound by the same safeguarding procedures, as we would do if the event were being held in school and due to these procedures, we are unable to live stream/film these events as not all our children have permissions for this.

We understand this is disappointing for all members of our school community. There is something that we have planned and organised as a school for parents/carers - unfortunately I am unable to tell you about this as it must be kept as a surprise!

We hope and pray that we may be in a position in the summer term where we can hold some performances/events for our school community to attend.

# WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

## Breakfast Club January 2021

Thank you to everyone who responded to our Breakfast Club surveys. Having reviewed the responses and the needs of our families, we will be restarting the Breakfast Club after Christmas. Following this feedback, we will initially be continuing with a drop in provision. This will be slightly different for the children in school to ensure they remain in their class bubbles. We will continue to review how successful this is during the first half term and may need to make some change if this becomes un-manageable as a drop in session.

Breakfast Club will restart on **Monday 11 January 2021**. Drop off will be between **8:00 and 8:30am** with strictly no admissions after 8:30. The cost for the first term is **£2 per session** (a reduction due to the free breakfast provision currently available in school). Payment will need to be made in advance via ParentMail (this will be available shortly to make payments), and accounts will be charged daily after each attendance. If there are insufficient funds on your child's account, they will be allowed to attend that day, but will subsequently, not be given entry until there are sufficient funds paid to their Breakfast Club Account.

Children must be brought to the main entrance by a parent/carer - please queue up the ramp, following the 2m markings. Children will sign in at reception as normal; however, **no cash will be accepted in school**.

### Remote learning:

We would like to say a huge well done and thank you to our families for the support provided for our children with remote learning during bubble isolations. The quality of work that we are receiving from the children is amazing. We acknowledge that this is a challenging time for our school community and that many of our parents/carers are working from home while supporting their child with remote learning. You are all doing an amazing job! The main way that teachers/teaching assistants will communicate during any bubble closures is via parent mail and e-mail. Part of our remote learning offer is to provide some booster sessions for some of our children via zoom but this does take some organising. It would really help us out if you receive an e-mail re this from one of our staff that you do respond to confirm if you would like your child to participate. Thank you for your support.

### Christmas Cards/ Gifts



We know that many families bring in cards/gifts etc at Christmas and we do very much appreciate these very kind gestures. However, in the current situation, the advice issued is the same as it was in Summer- the giving of gifts must be discouraged because of the risk of virus transmission. Unfortunately, this applies to children giving Christmas cards/gifts to other children.

**\*A suggestion from a parent- any money you would normally have spent on presents, maybe you could donate to school? Any money we get would be split between CAFOD and money towards some new equipment in school\***

# WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION



Last Sunday (29<sup>th</sup> November) was the first Sunday of Advent. Advent marks the beginning of the Church's year. The word ADVENT comes from the Latin word 'adventus' which means 'arrival', 'coming' or 'a drawing near'. During Advent, Christians focus on preparing for a three-fold coming.

- The coming of Christ in history (the birth of Jesus which we celebrate on December 25) and a remembrance of how the people of God waited expectantly for the Messiah;
- How Advent encourages believers to prepare to meet Jesus who comes every day in their lives;
- That believers wait in joyful expectation for Jesus to come again in glory at the end of time (the Second Coming).

Therefore Advent affirms that:

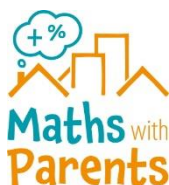
- Christ has come
- He is present in the world today
- He will come again in power.

Advent is a time of waiting in joyful hope for the coming of Jesus into the world. It is also a penitential season; one that prepares Christians for the Second Coming (hence the liturgical colour of the season is purple). Advent has a strong, positive message. Simply put it is – 'get ready!' Or as the Scriptures put it – 'prepare the way of the Lord'. For Catholics the call to work for charity and the common good are heightened during Advent. It is a time of renewal, personal growth and transformation.

There are so many beautiful readings at this time of the year, wonderful symbolism of the Advent wreath and Advent colours. The deeper we understand Advent as an opportunity to draw closer to God then the deeper and richer our appreciation of the true meaning of Christmas will be. We can try to spread joy and peace to those we live with not so much by any great announcements but by the small everyday things we do both at home and in our places of work. This was St Therese's 'little way.' Mother Teresa also said that it is not what we give that counts so much as the love with which we give it.

With the dark evenings and short days, light is a particularly powerful symbol. It only takes the light from one small candle to dispel a great deal of darkness and one act of kindness to transform someone's day. If you have an Advent Candle or wreath at home it is nice to light it every evening and think and say a prayer for the people you love.

# WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have made a great start to our use of Maths with Parents and we have been really pleased with the amount of you that have signed up.

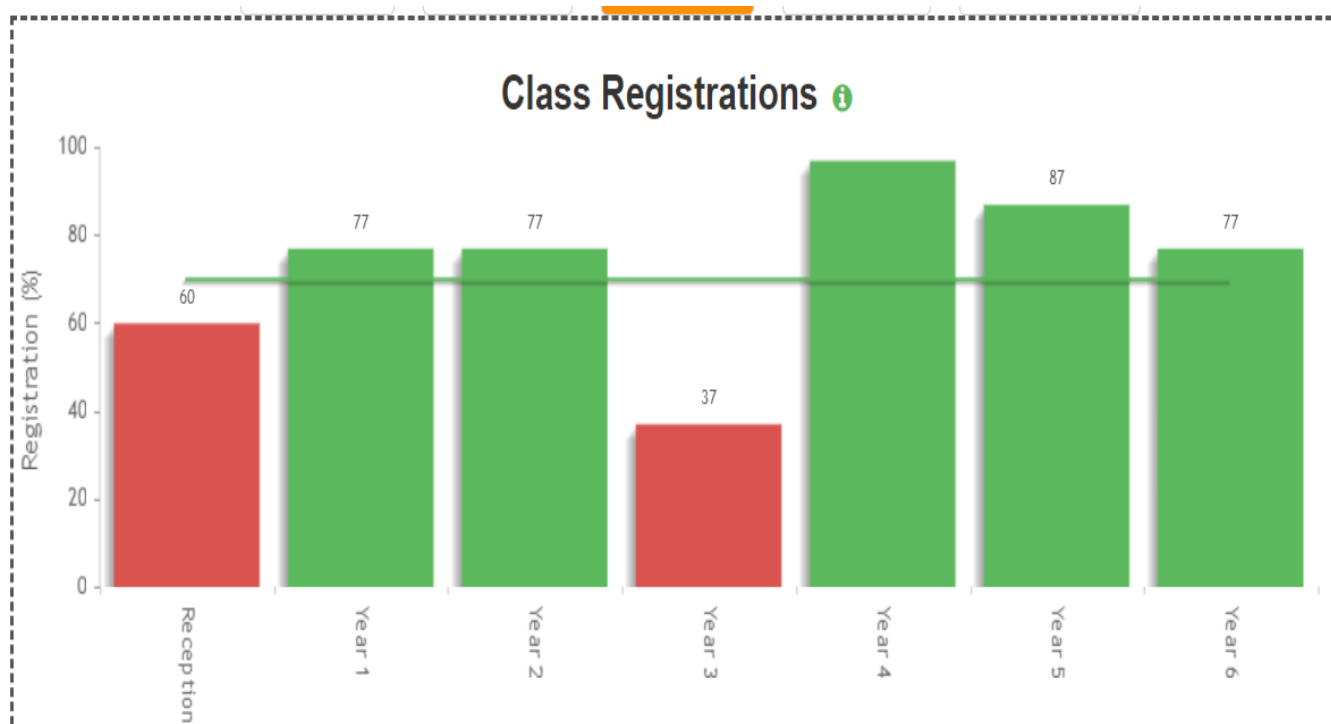
As a school, we are aiming for 100% of each class signing up and making the most of this great resource. Please look at the bar chart below to see the percentages for each class.

If you haven't had chance to sign up, we would really appreciate it if you could take 5 minutes to do so. (We have added all the details below for how to sign up)

If you have signed up, please remember to keep look out for your emails reminding you of when your child's teacher has put new videos and games online for you to play at home.

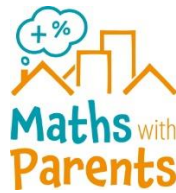
Thank you for your support,

Mr Platts



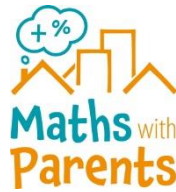
F2 and Year 3- Sign up so you can make use of this great resource!!

# WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION



1	<p>Go to <a href="http://www.mathwithparents.com">www.mathwithparents.com</a> and click on I'm a parent, and then Parent Sign Up</p>		
2	<p>Click to enter your details</p> <p>Click to launch the site</p>		
3	<p>Click to add your child</p> <p>Enter your child's details and 6-digit class code.</p> <p>Once you have used this to register, you will not need it again!</p>		
4	<p>Then you will see your login details, so you are ready to get started and enjoy our games and activities at home!</p>		

# WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION



## Can I add another child or parent?

### Adding Another Child

1. Log in to your account
2. At the bottom of your page there is a 'Add another child' icon:

Do you have other children to sign up? You will need their class codes. Use the link below to add them.

Add another child

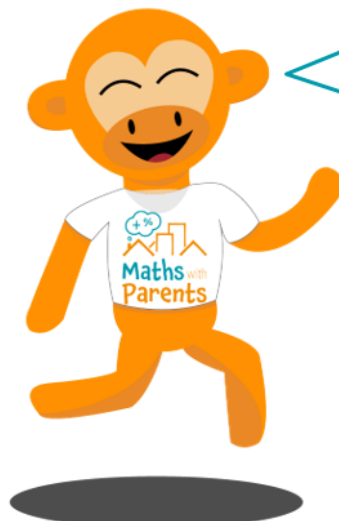
3. Click on this button
4. Enter your other child's class code

### Adding Another Parent

You can add as many parents, grandparents, carers etc. as required.

They will need to register the same way from the start – **just make sure everyone spells the child's name exactly the same.**

You will then all have access to the same account



If you need any help,  
get in touch  
[hello@mathswithparents.com](mailto:hello@mathswithparents.com)

# WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION



## CELEBRATION FRIDAY WINNERS

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November

F2	Elena	For	For putting 100% effort into all of your home learning. We have really enjoyed looking at your home learning photos, and your cakes looked delicious ☺
	Zack		Trying really hard with all of your home learning, you have blown me away with your Fred Talk and letter formation! Well done Zack ☺
Y1	Ashton	For	Fantastic effort on your Arithmetic test this week – you have really tried your hardest and have shown off your maths knowledge! Great job! ☺
	Jake		An absolutely amazing full marks score on your arithmetic test! You have blown us away with your fantastic maths knowledge! Well done ☺
Y2	Bruno	For	For your perfect experimenting skills! This week you have investigated the elasticity of different balls and have conducted your experiment with so much maturity and intelligence! You have used technical phrases like a real scientist and have ensured that all your tests were fair and accurate. Well done Bruno!
	Roger Jr		For always going above and beyond in your writing! You have come such a long way with your handwriting and spelling and try so hard to challenge yourself every day! I am so impressed with the amazing work you produce with no fuss! You are a super independent worker, great attitude Roger well done!
Y3	Joshua	For	Pushing yourself with your home learning this week. I have been so impressed by your positive attitude and your willingness to learn. Well done, Joshua!
	Nancy		Your amazing character description of Harmony Parker and her parents! I was so impressed by the language that you used and your retrieval of facts from the text. Well done!
Y4	Darcey	For	Being a superstar during Mrs Reaney's zoom sessions and for making big improvements in maths. Well done!
	Oliver		Having a brilliant attitude to all of your home learning during our isolation period. The work you have sent to me has been really good. Well done.
Y5	Kadija	For	Being very mature and respectful of your class mates during our RSE lessons this week. You set a great examples to your peers, well done Kadija!
	Max		Trying your very best in all of your assessments this week. Well done Max!
Y6	Maisie	For	Showing lots of effort and dedication to their home learning. Maintaining a focused and mature attitude despite the current situation. Well done!
	Samuel		Showing lots of effort and dedication to their home learning. Maintaining a focused and mature attitude despite the current situation. Well done!

# WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

## Last Week's Attendance & Punctuality

Class	Percentage Attendance	Lates
F2	N/A	N/A
Year 1	98.6	2
Year 2	96.8	2
Year 3	N/A	N/A
Year 4	N/A	N/A
Year 5	99.7	1
Year 6	N/A	N/A
<b>School Total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>6</b>

Wow! Well done Year 5! You will receive an extra playtime for your great attendance last week!

## GROWTH MINDSET AWARD WINNER!



**This week's winner is Myles in Y3**

You have been trying so hard to challenge yourself with your learning, and you try your hardest in our lessons. You don't give up even if you find something tricky! Well done!

## Outstanding Homework Winner

**Week ending 27<sup>th</sup> November**

Class	Winner
F2	N/A
Y1	
Y2	Rhys
Y3	Frankie
Y4	N/A
Y5	Sophie, Eoin, Ava, Poppy, Carly, Claudia
Y6	N/A

## 100% Attendance & Punctuality Winners

F2	N/A
Year 1	Mathaus
Year 2	Zosia
Year 3	N/A
Year 4	N/A
Year 5	Brody
Year 6	N/A

# TRIPS AND EVENTS - 2020/21

## Y6 Crucial Crew Trip

WEDNESDAY 20th JANUARY 2021

Y6 will be visiting Crucial Crew on WEDNESDAY 20th JANUARY 2021. We will be leaving school at 9am and will arrive back at school by 3:20pm. Crucial Crew is an opportunity to experience a range of real life scenarios.

The scenarios will be: Home Fire Safety, Arson, Bus Safety, Road Safety, Running Away, Mock Court Trial, Internet Safety, Basic First Aid, Peer Pressure/Retail Crime and Alcohol Awareness.

The activities take place in a large warehouse type building, which can be quite cold. Children need to wear their school uniform, and have a warm coat. All children need to have a packed lunch and a drink.

We are asking for an £8 voluntary contribution for the cost of the coach. Please see ParentMail to pay/give permission for your child to attend this trip.

COVID measures will be maintained while on site.

## Year 5 'Crime & Punishment Through Time' Online Workshop Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020



We all know that things are very different this year in regards to school trips. We really don't want children to miss these exciting events so we have arranged for Year 5 to have an hour long workshop in school about crime and punishment through time. This will cover:

- The history of Nottingham County Gaol
- Hear from infamous historical characters
- Explore some fascinating objects
- Examine the changes in prisons and punishments through time (specifically Georgian-Victorian era)
- Engage with the facilitator through questions and discussion.

We are asking for a contribution of £5 to cover the cost of this workshop. This is now set up on ParentMail for you to pay.

# TRIPS AND EVENTS - 2020/21

## Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December - LIVE Virtual Pantomime - CINDERELLA



We have bought into a live panto performance – “On no you haven’t”; “Oh yes we have!”

This year we will be watching a LIVE virtual interactive pantomime. Each class will be watching the live performance at 10am on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, which is also Christmas jumper & Christmas dinner day. So this will be a fun filled day for the children!

School are covering the cost of this. If any parents/carers do not want their child to watch the pantomime, please let the school office know.