



Newsletter – Issue 13
Week Commencing – 7 December 2020
St Thomas More Catholic Primary, A Voluntary Academy
Creswick Lane, Grenoside, Sheffield, S35 8NN T : 0114 2468020
e-mail enquiries@st-thomasmore.sheffield.sch.uk
Visit our website: www.st-thomasmoresheffield.co.uk



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:

Wednesday 16th December
Christmas Party Afternoon

Friday 18th December
Christingle in Bubbles

**FUTURE DATES FOR
YOUR DIARY:**

Wednesday 16th December
School Christmas Dinner
Christmas Jumper Day
Live Virtual Pantomime

Wednesday 20th 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).

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- 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

Don't forget to pre-order Christmas Dinner on SchoolGrid - **Wednesday 16th December 2020.**

Please can we ask that any information relating to absences/appointments/Covid19 be emailed to enquiries@st-thomasmore.sheffield.sch.uk and not the class email address. The enquiries email is checked more regularly and we do not want information to get missed.

Please can all sponsorship forms & money be handed into school by Friday 18th 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 18th 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

Raring2Go have provided a winter Christmas magazine full of ideas to help parents keep the children entertained at home this winter. Link below:

<https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/sheffield/winter/>

Information from the DFE regarding testing this academic year:

Pupils will not have to sit the same tests they would sit in a normal year. The key stage 1 tests in english reading and mathematics and the key stage 1 and 2 english grammar, punctuation and spelling tests will be removed for one year. We are keeping some assessments though, because it is important for us to be able to understand the progress pupils are making. Primary assessments in summer 2021 will be focused on the phonics screening check, teacher assessment in english reading, writing and mathematics at key stage 1, tests in english reading and mathematics and teacher assessment in english writing at key stage 2.

Parents Evening January 2021

The next Parents Evening in January will be held virtually via Zoom. Please see below for dates:

KS2 : Monday 18th January 2021

Y1 : Tuesday 19th January 2021

F2 & Y2 : Thursday 21st January 2021

From 11th December 2020 you can book your Zoom slot on ParentMail. The appointments are 10-minute slots from 2:00pm- 6:50pm. If for any reason you cannot attend a Zoom meeting, please do not book a slot. Instead, please call the school office and we will arrange for the teacher to schedule a telephone appointment during weeks commencing 11th and 18th January 2021.

Once slots are booked on ParentMail you will receive a Zoom invitation from the class teacher.

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**.

WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

Look at our wonderful Christmas Tree! The children have been busy making their own Christmas decorations. They have done such a good job!



WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION



CELEBRATION FRIDAY WINNERS Friday 4th December

F2	Sanjana	For	Trying new activities during our choosing time. Well done Sanjana!
	Zach		Showing us your super listening on the carpet and creating a brilliant WANTED poster for the GingerBread Man.
Y1	Anayah	For	A fantastic job with your big write this week – you have been able to hold a sentence in your head and write it down perfectly, and your spelling has really impressed me and Mrs North too! Great job!
	Jacob		Settling back into school really well even after some time off! You have really impressed us all with your knowledge you've built with your home learning! Well done!
Y2	Aleksander	For	For scoring full marks on your maths arithmetic paper! You have blown me away with your amazing mental maths skills, even answering questions we haven't learnt in class yet! Wow, what a star!
	Olivia		For your excellent reading comprehension skills! You have answered very tricky questions about large amounts of texts you have read perfectly, showing that you have great reading skills and understanding about what you have read! Well done, keep it up!
Y3	Jessica	For	Your amazing complex sentences in English! You tried so hard to make these interesting for your reader, and I thoroughly enjoyed reading your writing. Well done!
	Everton		Your super work in Maths this week! You have tried so hard with column addition and subtraction of three digit numbers. Well done Everton!
Y4	Jessie	For	Lifting everyone's spirits with your happiness and great sense of humour during our zoom meetings. Your smile puts a smile on all of our faces.
	Spencer		Having a positive attitude during your Zoom boosters with Mrs Reaney and Miss Bluff. Well done.
Y5	James	For	Trying your very best to focus in your lessons this week – this really showed in your work James! Well done!
	Zeph		Being a superb role model to the rest of the class this week! Well done!
Y6	Alfie	For	Demonstrating amazing perseverance and dedication to his learning by putting in 100% effort and focus. Well Done!
	Leo		Demonstrating amazing perseverance and dedication to his learning by putting in 100% effort and focus. Well Done!

WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

Last Week's Attendance & Punctuality

Class	Percentage Attendance	Lates
F2	98.7	0
Year 1	98.6	0
Year 2	97.3	1
Year 3	97.6	3
Year 4	N/A	N/A
Year 5	100	1
Year 6	N/A	N/A
School Total	98.4	5

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 Leylan in Y2

For your excellent attitude to school and learning. You have really pushed yourself this term to challenge yourself, especially in maths! You have blown us all away with how independent you are becoming, and it is wonderful to see how excited and enthusiastic you are towards learning. Every day you try your best and have proved yourself to be a super mathematician! Keep it up Leylan, you are a role model!

Outstanding Homework Winner

Week ending 4th December

Class	Winner
F2	N/A
Y1	Jake
Y2	Kornelia
Y3	Ethan
Y4	N/A
Y5	Sophie
Y6	Abby

100% Attendance & Punctuality Winners

F2	Nathan
Year 1	Hadley
Year 2	Oskar
Year 3	Olivia P
Year 4	N/A
Year 5	Macy
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.

Wednesday 16th 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 16th 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.