



Newsletter – Issue 25
Week Commencing – 15 March 2021
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Please help everyone by adhering to the social distancing rules set by the government and keep yourselves and your family safe.

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 the period of isolation for the person with symptoms is 10 days from the start of symptoms, a household member would need to isolate for 10 days. Day 1 is the day after symptoms or the day after a positive test if no symptoms.

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).

- 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/carers 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

The children had lots of fun on World Book Day and looked super!



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School Nature Garden

We Need Your Help



We want to create a space in our woodland area that will have a positive impact on learning in school. Our aim is to have a space that will support children's social, emotional and personal development. We want them to use this space for learning in science and geography, to help improve reading in school and to have a space where children can benefit from work in a great outdoor environment.

We have a plan of what we want it to look like, but we now need your help. If you are able to do so, we are asking you to donate any resources that you may have at home that you are no longer using.

We need the following things:

- Exterior fence and masonry paint - any colours!
- Timber
- Clear and green 2 litre plastic bottles.
- Bricks
- Bamboo
- Gardening gloves
- Gardening tools
- Plant pots - Not plastic ones!
- Car tyres
- Pond liner, fish food,
- Leftover bags of stones/pebbles/bark
- Wooden pallets

Also, if you work for any businesses that may be willing to donate any of the above materials we would love to hear from you.

If you think you have any of the following, and would like to donate these to school, please email enquiries@st-thomasmore.sheffield.sch.uk before bringing them into school as we will need to arrange when they can be dropped off.

We appreciate all of your help with this, and please keep an eye out for the next update as we will be asking parents to get their gardening gloves on!

Thanks,

Mr. Platts

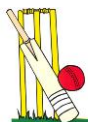
WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

Easter Hamper Raffle

Staff at STM have donated easter items to make these lovely Easter hampers for our raffle. As we are discouraging cash handling in school we have set up a payment item on ParentMail for you to pay for raffle tickets on there. Tickets are £1.00 each and you can buy as many as you like. All money raised will go to The Good Shepherd Appeal, which we support each year. The raffle will be drawn and the winners will be announced on Monday 29th March. Good luck everyone!



Whitely Hall Cricket Club Coaching



Year 6, Year 4 and Year 2 will be taking part in a cricket coaching session provided by Whitely Hall cricket club. Each year group bubble will have a 50-minute session. This will take place in school time on the morning of **Friday 23rd April** and will be free of charge. Children in these year groups will need to ensure they have their outdoor PE kits in school on this day.

National Autism Awareness Week in Sheffield: Monday 29th March- Friday 2nd April

National Autism Awareness Week in Sheffield #AutismAwarenessWeek
Working together to better support Children, Young People and Families with Autism
www.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk/ASDsupport and www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk



WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS MAINTENANCE FUND

In the past, Catholic Schools have asked for a voluntary contribution from parents/carers to the Schools Maintenance Fund. The Maintenance Fund was established by Bishop John to support Voluntary Aided Catholic Schools in meeting their 10% share towards capital projects (for any repairs and improvements to the external fabric of the school building).

As an Academy, we are funded differently for our capital projects. Funding for capital projects is now secured by bidding in to the EFA (Education Funding Agency) like all other academies whether they are Catholic or not. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure this funding as it relies on meeting criteria that states the school needs to expand or the condition is so poor there are health and safety concerns. Therefore, this means it is more important than ever that we maintain our schools on an ongoing basis yet with ever reducing budgets this is proving more and more difficult to do.

As a result, many schools, including those in Our Lady Umbrella Trust, are continuing to ask parents/carers to make a voluntary contribution to a School Maintenance Fund. This fund will be used to enable small projects such as painting, decorating, window cleaning, refurbishment and minor repair works to be undertaken to ensure that our school environment is as safe, welcoming and attractive as possible.

The governors wish to make it clear to parents that there is no obligation to make any contribution and children of parents who do not contribute will not be treated any differently.

The amount being requested towards this fund is £10 per child (This works out at 20p per child per week) or £15 per family or whatever voluntary contribution you are willing / able to make. Payments can be made on ParentMail.

Thank you for your continued support of the School.

Breakfast Club March 2021



Breakfast Club will resume on **Monday 29th March**. Following 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 and may need to make some change if this becomes un-manageable as a drop in session.

Drop off will be between **8:00am and 8:30am** with strictly no admissions after 8:30am. The cost 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, 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

PARKING SAFELY

Now that all the children are back to school, the area outside our school has become very busy again in the morning and even more so at leaving times.

We have had more reports of parking incidents.

Parents/carers who park close to entrances act irresponsibly, placing children in danger. We can't stress enough how important it is that the 'School Keep Clear' Zig Zag markings should maintain an area free from parked cars. Please do not drop your children off at school by stopping in the middle of the road. This is very dangerous. By keeping the space in front of school free from cars, it is allowing parents/carers and children walking in and out of school to cross safely, where they can see and be seen by approaching traffic.

We understand that parents/carers have places to be but please be sensible and think about the safety of all of our school community. We dread to think that one of our children could potentially be harmed due to irresponsible driving and/or parking. Please also be respectful of other drivers when parking, ensuring there is room to pass on the road. Blocking the road may pose a risk to nearby residents who may require urgent medical assistance in the event of a fire or illness. Please also refrain from parking on the grass verge outside of school.

If you have to drive to school, please try to park as far away from school as you can and walk the rest of the way.

If you happen to see any dangerous parking please take down the details and report this to the police on the below link:

<https://smartcontact.southyorkshire.police.uk/>


We thank you for your support with this.

Year 6 Parent/Carer & Pupil Notre Dame Roadshow



The date for the Y6 parent/carers & pupil roadshow for those students already allocated a place at Notre Dame starting September 2021 is 26 May. This will be held virtually via zoom 5.30-7.30pm. Once we know more details, we will let parents know.

WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

	CELEBRATION FRIDAY WINNERS Friday 12th March		
F2	Jacob	For	Creating a fantastic front cover for the Gingerbread Man story and carefully thinking about the pictures you had drawn! Well done Jacob 😊
	Piper		Listening and joining in with our stories during story time and remembering what comes next in the story 😊 Well-done Piper, keep it up!
Y1	Hadley	For	Coming back to school with a really positive attitude this week – you have worked hard in all areas of your learning this week! Great job with the World Book Day artwork today too!
	Jake		A fantastic first week back at school – you have really impressed us all with your super clear explanations. You were also able to say why a source of information was good or bad in History too! Well done!
Y2	Emmanuella	For	Coming back to school with such enthusiasm and eagerness to learn! You have really impressed me with how fluent your reading has become and have tried so hard with your handwriting! Keep up the good work!
	Luna		For your excellent growth mind-set this week! In the past, you have struggled to overcome barriers and persevere, but you have blown me away with how determined and confident you have been in your abilities! You should always believe in yourself Luna, you are a star!
Y3	Obeng	For	Coming back into school so independently and in such a positive way. You've come into class every morning ready to learn. Well done, Obeng!
	Kylan		Settling back into school life so well and in such a mature way. You have shown your determination with your learning, and you've tried your best all week! Well done, Kylan!
Y4	Charlie B	For	Having an amazing attitude towards all your work this week.
	Kayleigh		Working hard in science, your work on food chains was brilliant.
Y5	Poppy	For	Your excellent behaviour this week and for being an outstanding STM role model to the rest of the class. Well done Poppy!
	Simon		Always showing me that you are ready to learn and for always trying your best on all areas of your learning. Well done Simon!
Y6	Jack	For	Creating and designing a detailed fantasy creature! Great use of your techniques and skills! Keep it up!
	Kaisie		Settling back into school and the routine so well! Great positive attitude and focus! Keep it up!

WHOLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

GROWTH MINDSET AWARD WINNER!



Last week's winner is Jennifer in Y5 for:

Always giving learning activities her best go, even when she feels nervous or unsure and for always trying her best. Well done Jennifer!

Last Week's Attendance & Punctuality

Class	Percentage Attendance	Lates
F2	98.4	2
Year 1	98.4	4
Year 2	98.8	1
Year 3	100	3
Year 4	94.2	5
Year 5	98.2	1
Year 6	94.1	3
School Total	97.4	19

Wow! Well Done Y3! You will receive an extra playtime for your great attendance last week!



100% Attendance & Punctuality Winners

F2	Albert
Year 1	Anayah
Year 2	Rhys
Year 3	Allyssia
Year 4	Harry B
Year 5	Lidya
Year 6	Alfie

OUTSTANDING HOMEWORK WINNERS!

Week ending Friday 12th March

Class	
F2	Kai
Y1	Finlay W
Y2	
Y3	Kordell
Y4	Isaac
Y5	Oscar
Y6	Grace