



ST.THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

1st March 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all children back to school on Monday 8th March. We will of course continue to strictly adhere to our Covid risk assessments (see our website), and government guidance. This means that classes will continue to have staggered drop off and pick up times as before Christmas (lockdown).

It is therefore extremely important that children arrive at school at the given time and are picked up on time. Please try to remember that you must drop your children off and leave immediately; avoid chatting at the school gates and only one adult should do the drop off and pick up. Please contact the Office immediately if your child cannot attend school for whatever reason as attendance will be mandatory.

Children must wear full school uniform (winter clothes until after Easter). There will be no before or after school clubs until further notice and PE kits will be needed but they will be kept in school until Easter.

School dinners – please book and pay online via School Money. Any outstanding debts must be paid or Chartwells may refuse to provide dinner. There will be a slight change to the advertised menu – details to follow later in the week. School milk will resume from 8th March.

Home learning sheets/books should not be returned to school and once again, you must only visit the Office in an emergency. Please email or phone messages through to the school including those for teachers.

As you are probably aware, anyone who lives or works in Medway can book a COVID-19 symptom-free test. With the government announcement on the roadmap to ease lockdown restrictions, which starts with the re-opening of schools on Monday, 8th March, Medway Council is encouraging all households with schoolchildren to book a symptom-free test before you send your children back to school.

To limit the number of pupils who may test positive when returning to school, it's really important to get your household tested at one of Medway's symptom-free test centres. Testing is free, quick, and will help to identify individuals that have the virus without knowing.

Households are encouraged to book a test before Monday 8th March (we recommend you try and book as close to this date as possible). There are currently plenty of availability



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across Medway test sites (which are open 7 days a week) and bookings are updated each day to provide availability over a 7 day period.

If you are booking for your household, you must complete all bookings individually (e.g. if you have a family of four, then four bookings will need to be made using the slots available on the booking page).

You must book before visiting a symptom-free test centre. If you don't book you will not be permitted to take a test. No booking = no entry.

One in three people with coronavirus have no symptoms: it's important that parents and other household members book regular symptom-free tests every two weeks to help stop the spread of the virus in Medway.

How to book

Book now and help stop the spread of COVID-19 in Medway - this is the full booking link: <https://mph.healthit.org.uk/>

Please also find attached a document from Medway Educational Psychology Service with 'top tips for returning to school'. It is designed to support parents in preparing their children for the return to school:



Top tips for
returning to school

Take care and God bless,

Mrs Redmond
Executive Headteacher



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