



## **COVID Measures- Return To School Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

We want to express how excited we are about the return of the children to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September, and to thank you for supporting the school's fight against coronavirus last year and for working with us through what has been a challenging time for everyone. We are incredibly grateful for your participation and understanding.

In line with the government's roadmap out of lockdown, many control measures ceased to be legal requirements on 19 July. This letter outlines our plans for your child's return to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September– by working together we can continue to keep everyone safe and reduce the spread of coronavirus. We have chosen to maintain many of the measures we had in place last year to enhance the efficiency of the running of the school and maximise the positive impact we saw in the children from the processes and routines we put in place.

As per the last academic year, each week we will provide an update to parents about any refinements or adjustments to the measures we have in place in and around school. We hope that this will be useful in terms of keeping you informed and up to date. The situation nationally is, and will remain quite fluid and therefore we need to be prepared for many different eventualities.

### **What Will Stay The Same In School?**

- Regular handwashing and enhanced cleaning routines
- Regular staff testing
- Structured drop off and pick up routines at the beginning and end of the day (see below for further details)
- Regular review and refinement of the risk assessment
- We will continue to phone parents to come and collect their child (ren) if the child (ren) begin to show symptoms, and then encourage parents to take their child for a PCR test

## **Summary Of Changes For Autumn Term 2021**

### **Testing and self-isolation**

The school is no longer responsible for Test and Trace close contact tracing in the Autumn term. This will be taken over by the NHS Test and Trace service, who will inform your child if they have been in close contact with a positive case and advise them to take a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. Your child will not need to self-isolate and can attend school as usual, unless the PCR test returns a positive result.

The school will continue to have a role in working with local health protection teams (HPTs) in the case of a local outbreak. If there is an outbreak in the school, the NHS will contact the school and a Director of Public Health could advise us to temporarily reintroduce control measures – we will inform you as soon as possible if this applies.

If your child receives a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result, they should self-isolate in line with the [stay-at-home guidance](#). They will also need to get a free PCR test to confirm if they have coronavirus; whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR



test is taken within two days of the positive LFD test, and is negative, it overrides the LFD test result and your child can return to school, as long as they have not experienced coronavirus symptoms for 48 hours prior to their return.

### **End of Staggered Start and Pick Up Times**

The school day will officially begin for all children at 8.50 (including Pre-School), with the school gates opening from 8.40. This 10-minute window should allow for a steady flow of children during the morning without creating too much congestion. **We encourage parents to make a judgement about the time they arrive to avoid unnecessary queueing and crowding on the pavement.** Reception, Year 1 and 2 children will enter the school grounds via the lower gate, the same as they did last year. After drop-off, please make your way out of the school grounds via the top gate. We are encouraging parents not to be lining up at 8.40, but to judge their arrival to minimise queuing on the path.

For Key Stage 2 children, their entry point will be the top gate. From here, they will make their way along the path, into the Key Stage 2 yard, and into their classrooms. **As we did last year, we are not allowing parents to drop off Key Stage 2 children as we noted a significant improvement in independence during the walk into the classrooms.** Please also note that if you are a parent with Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 siblings, your Key Stage 2 children can come into school with you through the lower gate and then walk themselves round to Key Stage 2 on the top path as you exit the school grounds. For the first few days, we will have members of staff around the school site to ensure that we get into these new habits as quickly as possible.

### **End of Day**

Reception and Key Stage 1 children will see their school day finish at 3.15pm, with the bottom gates opening at this point for collection. Key Stage 2 siblings will no longer be sent to the Key Stage 1 yard, so parents should collect younger siblings first, before making their way along the path next to the car park, into the Key Stage 2 yard, where their children will be sent out to them. We will then open the top gate for parents who are only collecting Key Stage 2 children at 3.20pm. All children will need to be collected by 3.25pm, at which point if they have not been collected, they will be sent to After School Club. As ever, if there are changes to your child's pick up arrangements, please contact the school office via phone or email. **For the first few mornings and afternoons, we will have staff around the school site directing both parents and children until this becomes routine.**

### **Cleaning and sanitary procedures**

We will put in place and maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule. This will include the regular cleaning of areas and equipment, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces. Classroom resources, e.g. **books and games** will also be cleaned regularly.

Frequent and thorough hand washing will continue be encouraged and timetabled. We will continue to ensure that your child cleans their hands regularly with soap and water or hand sanitiser. Please send your child to school with their own hand sanitiser if you wish.

Classrooms will remain well ventilated throughout the day to ensure that clean air is flowing throughout work spaces whilst maintaining a comfortable working environment for children and staff.



### **Remote learning**

We will ensure remote education plans are in place in the event your child has to self-isolate. While attendance is mandatory, high-quality remote learning will be provided for pupils who are following clinical or government guidance to stay at home, e.g. where they are self-isolating. All pupils who are not physically unwell will be given access to remote education as soon as reasonably practicable via Google Classroom.

### **Extracurricular activities and wraparound provision**

You will be able to access wraparound and extracurricular provision for your child without any restrictions on the reasons for which they may attend, including sports clubs. All our wraparound and extracurricular provision will be risk assessed and follow the same procedures as regular lessons. We will be sharing our enhanced and exciting menu of extra-curricular clubs as soon as possible to allow you to book on. For Breakfast Club and After School Club, bookings can be made by following this link: <http://www.st-tc.co.uk/parent/childcare-bookings>

A useful document summarising the main changes for schools in September 2021, and the actions that will be taken by school in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, can be found here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1011704/20210817\\_Contingency\\_Framework\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011704/20210817_Contingency_Framework_FINAL.pdf)

### **Reminder Of Reception Phased Starts**

Children attending Reception will have a staggered start on the week commencing 6th September. Your child will have received a timetable to highlight the morning session they will be attending that week (Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday) All children will be attending Friday morning. Reception children will be full time from the week commencing 13th September.

We very much look forward to seeing you next week.

Your sincerely,

Mr Colclough and the team at St Thomas of Canterbury