



St Thomas & St Anne's CE Primary School

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~ Caring, growing and learning together ~

Dear Parent/Carer

COVID -19 - UPDATE 22.3.20

Our school closed on Friday afternoon until further notice. Hopefully, every child has received their Home Learning Folder which contains work for them to complete at home over the next two weeks. Further work will be provided on our website as required after the Easter break. There will be a new Home Learning page under the Pupils tab which we are working on currently and where further work will be uploaded, this page will be regularly updated.

We will continue to provide regular contact via text, email and on our website, so that pupils and parents do not feel isolated from school during this uncertain period.

I am sure that many of you will have set up your own routines for next week, but if you haven't I would recommend that you consider setting up a timetable for each day, so that the children have a structure to their day. We would recommend that they are ready to start their day at 9.00 am and are able to do this in a room other than their bedroom wherever possible. Ideally, this should be a quiet space where they can focus on their learning without too many distractions. They should have a suitable break in the middle of the morning and again for lunchtime, before resuming their activities in the afternoon. We suggest that English and Maths activities are undertaken in the mornings and all other activities are undertaken in the afternoons. We will send out a suggested daily timetable tomorrow, which you may wish to follow.

For those children coming into school tomorrow or later in the week, please come to school in comfortable practical home clothes and appropriate sensible footwear and enter school through the main school door at the front of the school. A school meal will be available should your child wish to have one or alternatively please provide a packed lunch. Please also make sure your child brings in a water bottle, and either a piece of fruit or nut-free snack for morning break. It is likely that dismissal will also be via the front entrance, but we will confirm this during the course of the day tomorrow. The side gates will not be open tomorrow; please use the main gate to enter the school grounds. Your child is likely to be in a different class base (with children from other year groups) and with different staff throughout the course of a week, depending on staff rotas which will be established over the next couple of days. For tomorrow however all staff will be in school as usual, unless they are self-isolating for any reason and the children will start the day in their normal class bases with their usual class teachers. I will send out further information regarding this over the next day or so.

The latest information that has been released is that if children can stay safely at home, they should. This will limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

Therefore, if someone in your household is not classed as a critical worker and is able to stay at home with your child, please keep your child at home. This is the safest place for them to be. Please only use the childcare provision at school for those days or shifts that you are required to work, if there isn't anyone else that can look after them at home. For example, it may only be specific mornings, afternoons or days that you may need childcare. Thank you so much to all those parents who have already made arrangements regarding this, letting us know the specific days or sessions that your child will need to access provision.

If anyone else just requires specific sessions rather than full time provision please let the office know as soon as you are able, as this will help us to plan staffing accordingly, which will be a skeleton staff working on the school premises at any given time on a rota basis. We do appreciate that shifts and rotas for your own work may be subject to change however as demands on different services alter as the situation evolves - just keep in touch with any changes.

By following the latest government advice, this will significantly minimise the risk for your child, your family and our school staff.

I will be in touch again tomorrow.

Best regards,
Kate Budd