

St. Thomas More RC Primary School  
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18 March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

The children have made a good return to school and it has been wonderful to see the classrooms come back to life again after the quieter period of lockdown. The staff are thrilled that their pupils are back and the children seem very happy to be with their friends. Thank you for the words of encouragement sent to staff for their hard work and dedication, your kind appreciation is gratefully received as it has certainly been a demanding time for them.

Thank you so much for all the support you offered your child during the lockdown period. We are acutely aware of the challenges that families faced in getting the children to school or in trying to support remote learning whilst working at the same time. All your efforts are very much appreciated and we know how much the children have benefitted from them. We are currently rebuilding our knowledge of the children's needs in light of all that has happened over the last few months so that we can help them to progress well and we will send home short interim reports before the end of term.

I am delighted to inform you that the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle have agreed to fund some major refurbishments to our school. Lighting across the whole school will be replaced so that the classrooms will be brighter and more pleasant- they will also be more sustainable as LED lighting will be installed. The entire heating system will be replaced, again providing a better learning environment for our pupils. Both cloakroom areas are to be refurbished and new external doors to be installed, also all children's toilet facilities are to be replaced. We have also secured funding to upgrade our wifi and computing facilities, so all in all we have a busy few months ahead. As you can imagine, this is a very significant investment and I would like to express my profound thanks to the Diocesan Education Department for making this possible.



The refurbishment of Class 1 and Class 2 is scheduled to begin on Thursday 25 March and will take up to four weeks. This will cause MAJOR disruption to the day to day workings of the school and therefore I am requesting your support and understanding. Class 1 will be taught in the hall and Class 2 will move to the IT room for lessons at some point. There will be **NO ACCESS** to the KS1 area of the school and therefore we will need to implement a new system to get the children on and off site whilst maintaining covid restrictions. Attached to this letter is **a new temporary entry/exit system**; please share it with all adults who will drop off or pick up your child from school. Please can I stress the importance of maintaining social distancing when on site and request your patience at the start and the end of the school day? It is imperative that all children remain in the close care of adults and do not run off across the field etc. Family groups should maintain 2m apart from other families at all times. We may ask you to wait as children are dismissed, but please be assured that we will do everything we can to make the process as quick and smooth as possible. The gate at the rear of school will remain locked until families using the front exit have left, and the children walking home on their own will be dismissed last so that they avoid any congestion. Unfortunately, you will need to cross over the school field so please wear suitable footwear.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support as all these developments will only be possible if we all work together. Please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



Interim Executive Headteacher

## Access Route On and Off Site, St Thomas More School

Access to school is from the entrance gate on Thorndale Road or from the gate to the playground from Cheveley Walk. Parents/carers and children are requested to walk from Thorndale Road entrance across the edge of the school field at 2 metre intervals, around the back of the storage sheds and on to the edge of the playground. Pupils will be met by their teachers on the playground and they should line up, as outlined below. Parents/carers are then requested to continue to walk on the path around the edge of school to the exit gates.

At the end of the school day, parents/carers are requested to enter the school grounds in the same way. Children will wait on the playground and will be directed to their parents as they pass.

The gate at the rear of school will remain locked until families using the front exit have left, and then parents may access the pick up point on the playground before returning to the gate. Please maintain social distancing at all times.

