



## ST.THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

### **Reopening of School**

I hope that you all had a safe and enjoyable Christmas. As I am sure you are aware the government announced last night that most primary schools in the country will re-open on 4th January 2021 keeping to the normal term dates. However, in some regions where the cases of COVID are extremely high, schools will remain closed until at least 18th January 2021. One of these regions is Medway.

St Thomas of Canterbury will therefore not be re-opening to all children on Tuesday 5th January 2021 as per our term dates but will be open for vulnerable children, that is those with social services involvement and those who are in receipt of an EHCP. We will also be open for those children of key workers, but again **only** if there is no alternative to child care from a partner who is not a key worker or is unable to work from home. In our previous lockdown, we asked for prior evidence of this but due to such short notice this time, we may have to follow this up after the children have come back to school. Please see below the list for key workers:

#### [Key Worker List](#)

Teachers will post work on either our school website or class dojo – we will keep you updated on this at the beginning of next week. As in the first lockdown, children who do come into school may not be supervised or taught by their own class teachers/TAs.

Children may not be in age/year group bubbles but rest assured that we will follow health and safety as outlined in government guidance and in our risk assessments.

A packed lunch will be provided for those children who qualify under the Pupil Premium Grant whether those children are in school or not. We would ask you to call or email the school by 9.30 am each morning if you require a packed lunch. You will have to pick it up.

Finally, and without trying to sound pessimistic, this is a very serious situation as the numbers of positive cases are even higher in Medway than they were in the April peak, complicated even further when we add the new variant of the strain in as well. Therefore, I implore you to act responsibly - we must keep safe, stay at home and don't mix. Keeping schools closed and not reopening for the start of term is a very extreme measure for the government to take and only emphasizes the seriousness of the situation here in Medway.



Romany Road, Rainham, Gillingham KENT ME8 6JH  
Tel: 01634 234677 Fax: 01634 319627  
Executive Headteacher: Mrs C Redmond  
Email: [office@st-thomascanterbury.medway.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-thomascanterbury.medway.sch.uk)  
[www.st-thomascanterbury.medway.sch.uk](http://www.st-thomascanterbury.medway.sch.uk)





**ST.THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

We must stay at home and follow the guidelines if we are to keep ourselves and those that we love safe - now and into 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Redmond  
Executive Headteacher