



Dear parents/ carers

I can't believe the summer holidays are over already!

As we prepare for the children to return tomorrow – and the new Reception children to start either tomorrow or Friday – I just want to firstly – welcome you back for the new term but also go over the arrangements for the new school year.

Much of this letter is a duplication of the letter sent in July – but it is worth confirming.

What are the rules around COVID?

A simple(ish) cheat sheet on what to do if there is a positive case is with this letter.

General good hygiene – eg hand washing will still be required in school.

If a child has symptoms, they must have a PCR (not lateral flow) test. They should stay home until the result is known.

If there is a case in the family home, children are still expected to come to school (with regular PCR testing)

If there is a positive case:

- Isolation for close contacts of positive cases is not required.
- Close contacts will be encouraged/ recommended to have a PCR test (based on the experience of a family I know -I would suggest doing this every 2/3 days for the next 10 days). Unless a child has symptoms, they do not need to isolate while waiting for the results of this test.
- NHS Test and Trace will contact the family with the positive case and confirm close contacts.
- We will inform parents of a case(s) in classes.

If there are multiple cases

- We will implement further safeguards in school such as moving collective worship online, requiring non-exempt adults to wear masks



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**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



I accept that these arrangements are very different to the bubble structure that we maintained last year. I would encourage all family members to complete lateral flow tests regular when not symptomatic to look to catch cases early. Staff will continue to complete these twice a week.

Please use the headteacher@tho.srscmat.co.uk e mail address to keep school informed of all things COVID eg positive/ negative tests or for any COVID based questions. This e mail address is most regularly monitored and by 3 people. E mails to other addresses may be missed.

The school day:

Following the successful trial in the final half term last year, the start of the day will be:

- Gates open at 8:40
- Children go straight to their classes
- Bottom gate will be locked at 8:55
- 8:55 Register is taken
- 9:00 Learning starts
- Anyone arriving after 8:55am will need to go into school via the office and will be marked as late.

We will keep the one-way system in/ out of school at top gate to ease congestion.

Infants and juniors can come into school via whichever gate they choose, however, parents who wish to accompany their child onto the school premises will need to enter school via top gate. Bottom gate will be a 'Drop and run' gate only.

The end of the day will go back to normal with all children finishing at 3:30pm.

Reception/ 1B will be collected from the garden area; 2R/2L collected from the Infant playground and Juniors from the Junior playground.

Again, we will maintain the one-way system – and would suggest Infant parents collect through top gate and juniors via the bottom – again this eases congestion on the school premises and spreads out the parking!





Years 3-6 will be able to get permission to leave the school alone – so if you wish to meet them on the road this will be allowed. These children will be dismissed from the classroom. Please give permission via this [form](#). Please fill it in separately for all your children in the juniors. **If this form is not filled in, then parents will need to come onto the playground to collect their child.**

We will amend timing slightly through the day to keep smaller groups on the playground at breaktime (2 classes at a time) as this has been really successful in reducing accidents(!) and the children have more space to play together. Whole phases (4 classes) will be on the playground together at lunchtime.

We continue to encourage parents to wear masks on the school grounds and especially when coming in to school

Mass/ Liturgies:

Mass and Class Liturgies will be on Thursdays to 9:30am on Thursday mornings (due to the new time we have been allocated for school swimming). All classes will have a class liturgy and a class mass to share with parents through the course of the year.

There are no public masses or liturgies planned in September – we will have a whole school mass but will initially keep this closed to children and staff only while we feel our way with the current level of cases and see what impact this has in school.

Swimming:

School swimming has not been possible this year across the whole of Derbyshire – but it does start again in September (first date is 17th September)

Next year, as the current Year 5 class did not get the opportunity to go at all, Year 6 will go swimming from September until February Half term. The new Year 5 class will then start to swim from February half term until the end of the year.

The new swimming day is Thursday – and our time means we will be dropped back at school at about 3:30pm. Apologies in advance as this may mean that sometimes we are late back – please wait on the playground not if this happens – and do not try to take your children directly from the bus.



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Swimming is not classed as a PE day for uniform purposes so children must be in full uniform on swimming days.

General reminders:

Please do check our uniform policy on the website [here](#). Please make sure any purchases do fit in with this policy – eg no boots; shirts with a tie from October half term (no polo shirts). There is a link on the page to order the branded St Thomas hoodies. Please do take note of the PE uniform.

A gentle reminder that children should not bring large bags or pencil cases etc into school. We do not have the storage for large bags as the cloakrooms are already very tight. School provides all the necessary equipment so children do not need to bring in any pencils/ pens etc of their own.

God bless

Mr Lobb and Mr Sellors

Term Dates:

Wednesday 1st September INSET DAY

Thursday 2nd September – Friday 22nd October

Monday 1st November INSET DAY

Tuesday 2nd November – Tuesday 21st December (Friday 3rd December INSET DAY)

Wednesday 22nd December INSET DAY

Monday 10th January – Friday 18th February

Monday 28th February INSET DAY

Tuesday 1st March – Friday 8th April

Monday 25th April – Friday 27th May (Monday May 2nd Bank Holiday)

Monday June 6th - Friday 22nd July (Friday 1st July INSET DAY and Monday 4th July Bank Holiday – in lieu of the Queen's Jubilee additional Bank Holiday)



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