



Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for all that you are continuing to do to help us keep children in school.

As a result of the rising number of cases across the UK, the DfE has also asked **all schools** to relook at their contingency planning in time for January.

We do not want to worry anyone as, at the moment, we have been given no further information than this and only know what you all know!

We have been asked to be **prepared for all eventualities**.

In reality, this might mean that things remain the same; could include a return to the 'bubble system' that was in operation last year (The bubble system was when the four phases of the school [Rec/ 1B, 2R/2L, Y3/4, Y5/6] formed separate bubbles which did not cross) or it could mean that schools in the country or specific areas are asked to close for all apart from children of key workers as we were in March 2020/January 2021 with the rest of the school accessing learning remotely.

If school were asked to partially close again and return to remote learning (something all of us in school really hope does not happen again), we must be able to, again, identify our key worker families. For this reason, we will be asking you to let us know your occupation/s and whether you feel that anyone in your household qualifies as a key worker (some definitions are included below – these are tentative and may be subject to change depending on any additional government guidance). **This information gathering exercise forms part of our contingency planning and is not because we have been told that this will happen.**

Please fill in the form [here](#).

Even if you have done this before during the last school year, please fill it in again so we are ready to act quickly. Please do not assume we have your information. As is often the case with government announcements, we find out the same time as everyone else and the implementation time is often less than 24 hours! The form also asks about access to technology that would allow a child to access home learning. 'Just in case' we will also be resending home to all families the log in details for their child (These will be glued into reading records). For children in Reception, we do not have these at the current time to send but will as soon as we do.



St. Thomas' Catholic Voluntary Academy
Church View, Ilkeston, DE74LF
info@tho.srscmat.co.uk
www.stthomasilkeston.srscmat.co.uk
[@stthomasderbys](https://twitter.com/stthomasderbys)
Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



This information is in addition to the letter sent earlier in the week that outlined the changes to testing for 5–11-year-olds when they have been identified as close contacts of people who have tested positive for COVID.

For now, we shall continue to maintain our preventative measures in school which are as follows:

- Handwashing more frequently
- Not gathering as a whole school
- Adults wearing masks in communal areas throughout the school
- Increased ventilation throughout the school

Thank you, again, for your continued support. I pray that you all have a wonderful Christmas and that the planning we are looking at now is never needed.

God bless

Mr Lobb and Mr Sellors

Health and social care

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

Key public services

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.



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Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arm's length bodies.

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

Public safety and national security

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.



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