



Dear parents/ carers

It was lovely to catch up with many of you at the parents evening recently. It was wonderful to be able to invite parents into school and to start to return to position of almost normality on school. That continues next week with the Easter performance by Year 3/4 – the first one of these since 2019!

**COVID:** As you may well know, free COVID tests come to an end for the general public (and school staff) today. The latest information we have is:

- PCR tests will also not be available to the public/ school staff (unless very vulnerable)
- No testing is expected by either children or school staff
- If someone does test and is positive, they should stay away from school for at least 5 days
- Children should stay off school if they appear to be ill

The last point may appear to be obvious – but in recent times, schools in general have had children sent in when they are unwell – but COVID-free – as ‘they don’t have COVID’!

COVID rates are currently high nationally and appear to be rising (and do appear to be high in our local area – we do have a number of recent cases for school staff and pupils) – I would ask all parents to use their common sense around illness. Recent symptoms of COVID have been tiredness/ lethargy, tummy ache and diarrhoea – as well as sore throats and cold-like symptoms.

Thank you for your continued support on this and I am sorry that I can’t give better clarity. If we are given further information that contradicts this, I will update you all further.

**COVID vaccinations for 5-11 year olds:** Carrying on from the above section..... these are bookable by parents early in April on the link - [here](#). We are told there are no plans to carry out these vaccinations in school so they must be accessed in the community. I know choosing a vaccine will be a very personal choice for many parents.

**Attendance:** Most children at St Thomas’ attend really well. Some children – even after taking COVID into account – have attendance that is lower than it should be. We are reviewing attendance at the moment and will be making contact with parents where attendance is lower than it should be.



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**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Children who regularly miss learning in school do end up with gaps in their knowledge and understanding in all areas of the curriculum.

**School Leadership:** You will have received the letter last week about the fact I am leaving St Thomas' – and the trust – at the end of this school year. Moving on was a very difficult decision to make as St Thomas' is a very special place with a wonderful staff team and lovely children and parents – I will miss being part of the St Thomas' community very much. I am really proud of what has been achieved over my years at the school and will leave behind a piece of my heart when I go. I will always look out for the school. Plans are in hand to put the leadership structure in place for September – I would expect either myself or the trust to be able to confirm this with you all very soon.

***Don't forget!***

Tonight! Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Infants Disco (6:00-7:30pm)

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Year 3/4 Easter Performance 2pm and 7pm

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April – Final day of term.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April – First day of Pentecost term.

God bless

Mr Lobb



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