

## St Thomas Becket Catholic Primary

### September Return to School

Dear parents

As we near the end of our school term I'm sure many of us are reflecting on how surreal the last term has been. The word unprecedented has been overused but we struggle to find comparisons with anything in our lifetime. And yet despite the pressures of often having to deal with work issues and at the same time quickly acquire the ability to teach children at home, I have been so impressed by the measured, sensible and skilled way parents have taken on this task successfully.

It was heartening also to read over the weekend of a recent national survey that found Lockdown had strengthened many parents' relationships with their children, with a quarter of parents reporting that their relationship with their children had improved while less than 5% said it had become worse. I do hope you are one of the quarter but regardless, all our parents need to recognise they've done a great job during an incredibly difficult time. I'd like to give you all a massive clap because you've also been some of the greatest heroes over the past few months.

And so to where we go from here! As you may be aware, the government has recently asked schools to prepare to welcome **all pupils back in September 2020**.

The DFE has specified a set of actions schools must take to ensure 'prevention' and 'response to any infection' and these will be in place when the children return in September. Alongside other measures, as is currently the case, this will **require staggered start and finish times for year groups**, as well as staggered lunch times and playtimes.

There is to be a continuation of the use of 'bubbles' of children to minimise the contact with other children and adults, although the size of these 'bubbles' in primary school has been increased to include a whole class.

Since Lockdown began we have relaxed our uniform policy while only certain categories / year groups of pupils were attending. **From September we will return to our usual uniform policy (details will follow)** as it has been clarified that uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.

**Attendance** expectations will be different from September. In March when the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was increasing, the government made it clear no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school. From September **it will be mandatory for all children to return to school** to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

This means that from September the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends school regularly
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence

While the aim is to have all pupils back at school in the autumn, every school has been warned to plan for the possibility of a local lockdown. In this event St Thomas Becket is able to use our continually developing use of Gsuite and Google classroom to ensure a continuity of education for all our children.

We are currently working on our whole school plan to ensure the school is ready to open to all our children in September and we look forward to having our whole school family back together again at the start of the autumn term.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.  
Mr Campbell

### New Class Teachers– Sept 20

I'm sure all the children are anxious to know who their class teacher will be in September. At this point in the year we would normally be holding our 'Meet the Teacher' morning for classes but instead each teacher will now post a video on the class Gsuite to introduce themselves to the children. The videos will be available on your child's class Gsuite on Thursday morning after 9.00am. The list of teachers and classes for September will be send out on Friday 10 July.

### Art House with Mrs Pitts

In an exciting addition to our Gsuite offer Mrs Pitts has produced an amazing video which takes children through the process of producing their own art creations (think -'Here's One I made Earlier'). This week's video is aimed at both Infant & Junior pupils but from next week onwards there will be a separate infant & junior Art session.

This is one not to miss so do check out her video. You can find it on our **Becket Fun and Games Page** / Creative Ideas.



### Year 6

All our Year 6 children are invited back for the final week of term. We'll finish on Friday 17 July with an end of year service on the school field - which will allow us to present the children with their wonderful Year Book (photos and memories) (unfortunately we cannot invite parents to join us)

### Whole school survey

We will be carrying out a survey in the coming weeks to capture feedback from children and parents about their online learning experiences in order to help inform future home learning support.