

Newsletter

St Thomas Becket Catholic Primary

Welcome back Everyone !!

We look forward to welcoming back all our parents and children next week and hope that we've all found some time to recharge over the summer break (whether by staycation, venturing abroad or. We welcome to our school community Mrs Williams-Vernon, our new Year 1 teacher. I know you will make her feel right at home from the first day of school.

CLUBS

A smaller range of before and after-school clubs (Year group specific) will be starting up again over the next few weeks so check out our menu of activities which will be sent out in due course.

IMPORTANT: Children attending morning sports clubs should come to school wearing their PE kit (uniform in bag) as rooms will not be available for changing.

Dates for Your Diary

Key dates for the year will be sent out next week and will be available on the school website.

PLEASE NOTE ALL DATES AND PLANNED SCHOOL EVENTS ARE PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS AT THE TIME.

Contact Details

The start of the academic year is a good time to update your contact details in case these have changed over the year. In the interests of safeguarding please ensure that you let the school office know if any phone numbers or your address has changed.

PICKING UP AT END OF DAY– Children should only be picked up by their parents or adults authorised to do so (identified in writing to the school). Please let the school know if this changes.

Meet the Teacher Evening

This will be replaced by a **teacher video** which will be sent to parents in the week ending Friday 25 September.

Class teachers will discuss general matters relating to the new school year, daily, weekly routines and curriculum matters.

Class Assembly Dates

Dates for all class assemblies will be sent out next week.

We are currently unable to invite parents or children (other than the other year group class) to attend class assemblies. Until this situation changes we will video all class assemblies and post these on our school Gsuite.

ADMISSIONS

Information Meeting for Reception intake September 2021

There will be a meeting at St Thomas Becket school on **Thursday 22nd October at 7.00pm** for those wishing to apply for a place for their child in Reception Class starting in September 2021.

(If restrictions prevent this going ahead we will post a video with relevant information)

Admissions information is now available on our school website:
www.thomasbecket.croydon.sch.uk

IMPORTANT NOTE

On the advice of the Education Commission of the Archdiocese of Southwark the governing body of St Thomas Becket Catholic Primary School has agreed the following statement in order to clarify how its faith-based oversubscription criteria will be interpreted whilst churches are closed or attendance at church is not possible due to COVID19. This statement has been shared widely with parishes in order to ensure that determinations made by parish priests concerning regular practice of the faith are being made on a consistent basis.

The suspension of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass was announced on 18th March 2020 by Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. If a parent/carer attended Mass at particular parish (or parishes) prior to 18th March 2020 then they will be considered to have attended Mass in that parish (or parishes) regularly since that time. This will remain the case until the Sunday obligation is reintroduced by the Bishops.

Autumn Term Parent Evenings

These are scheduled to take place on:

Thursday 12 November

Wednesday 18 November

If Covid restrictions do not make it possible to hold these meetings face to face, then they will be carried out via telephone call on these dates. A booking system will be available as normal before these dates.

Gsuite- Well-Being Site

Our Wellbeing site has been updated with fun links for children to get them thinking about returning to school, along with parent resources for supporting children on their return to school. Check it out on our Gsuite.

Wednesday 7th October

Photographer in School for individual pupil photos.



This year we cannot offer family groups outside of siblings presently in school.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE

Dickenson's Lane to become a 'School Street'– from 1st September 2020

(This means parents will not be able to drive their cars into Dickenson's Lane at drop off or pick up)

The School Street is due to be in place by Tuesday 1st September 2020. It will run in testing mode for one week after the school start, followed by a period of warning notices. Please pay particular attention to the letter to parents, issued by Croydon Parking Enforcement, that accompany this newsletter. The purpose of the scheme is to make the road perceivably safer and less polluted.

To prevent the school being inundated with questions and requests that we will be unable to answer, please direct all parent queries to the Council's email- **schoolstreets@croydon.gov.uk**

Initially the scheme will operate by issuing advisory warning notices, to prompt eligible vehicle keepers to request an exemption.

For information, the scheme is likely to result in an initial displacement of parking into the surrounding roads, while a portion of parents become assured that it is better to walk. Parking enforcement officers will initially show an increased presence in the surrounding roads, to prevent bad parking standards from developing and becoming an unwanted norm. If the school receives any complaints, then we will re-direct them to the Council. The existing School Street schemes have demonstrated the eventual uptake in children walking and a reduction in car use, which benefits the local road network as a whole. Thank you for your understanding with regard to this important development.

Please do consider **walking to school** if you can to avoid increased traffic at Birchanger entrance.



Woodland Trust Green Trees Schools Award

St Thomas Becket has been awarded Silver by the Woodland Trust. This was in recognition of the School Council's achievements in raising awareness of recycling through their assembly and their inspirational art work on the Eco Board of a Woodlands scene which has inspired us to appreciate and protect our trees and woodland areas.

It will form part of our evidence for our Silver Certificate for Eco Schools.



Drop off and Pick up

For the time being, in order to support social distancing, both drop off and pick up times will be need to be staggered each day.

Parents will not be allowed on to the school site each morning but must drop children at the designated gate and time. Siblings can be dropped off at the same time.

Parents will be allowed to enter the school site at the end of the day to pick up children. In order to avoid parents having to wait around for siblings in various classes to be dismissed (possibly at different times) and to be able to leave the site as promptly as possible, we have decided to implement a sibling and non-sibling pick up.

See our Drop off and Pick up procedures.