



Saint Thomas More R.C. Primary School

Headteacher, Joanne Butterworth, Deputy Headteacher: Anna Quigg
Assistant Headteacher: Sarah Dodd

FOR PARENTS OF DIRECT CLOSE CONTACTS OF COVID 19 in Key Stage 1 (Miss Jones, Mrs Weekes & Miss O'Donnell's classes)

Tuesday 15th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure you are aware of the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the increase in the number of confirmed cases in the UK and that Nationally there is a shortage of testing.

I am writing to inform you that a member of KS1 staff who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). The individual has not been in school this week, but on advice from Infection Control we have made the decision to close Key Stage 1. Please note that in line with GDPR we are not allowed to name any individuals that test positive.

This will mean that the children will need to isolate for 14 days from the date of the test which was Sunday 13th September, therefore they can return to school Monday 28th September.

Advice for Children to Self-Isolate for 14 Days

As a result of a member of KS1 staff testing positive for the virus we have followed the national guidance, and all pupils and staff members identified as close contacts of the individual are advised to self-isolate for 14 days. As the staff member has not been in school the 14 days are from the date of the test which means the children can return on **Monday 28th September.**

Your child will not be penalised for non-attendance and remote education will be provided throughout the period they are at home. The other members of your household are not required to self-isolate unless your child subsequently develops symptoms. If your child develops symptoms, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days from the day their symptoms began, and the other members of your household for 14 days from this day.

We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community.

If your child is well at the end of the 14 days period of self-isolation, then they can return to usual activities. A negative test does not mean that your child can return to school earlier than 14 days.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the 14 day self-isolation period.

Please see the link to the PHE Staying at Home Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

We Love, We Learn, We Live with Christ

Evesham Road, Alkington, Middleton, Manchester, M24 1PY.
Tel: 0161 643 7132, Email: Office@stthomasmorerc.rochdale.sch.uk



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Home learning and Google Classroom

As part of the return to school guidance we have to have a contingency for any issues that arise due to COVID 19, whether that is quarantine, isolating or confirmation of a positive case. Remote Education during the closure period will be provided through Google classroom.

The codes for each class are:

Mrs Weekes - bi7ijq6

Miss O'Donnell - 67ewss2

Miss Jones - akvpd5k

Please ensure you have logged into your child's class in order to access the work.

Today, your child has been sent home with learning resources and reading books .

Key Stage Lead, Miss Jones, will have a zoom meeting tomorrow morning to talk through the learning arrangements for the isolation period. There will be two meetings: 9am and 9.45am. This will be the same information, please log onto the time which is best for you. Codes for the meeting will be text out separately.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19 during isolation

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared, and should not return until 48 hours after the symptoms have past, as advised in <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

You should arrange for testing for your child via

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> or 111.nhs.uk or primary care.

To book a test at one of the local walk-in testing centres below call free phone **0808 1964 100** or visit [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) to book)

- Rochdale Town Hall, Packer Street.
- Market Place Car Park next to Middleton Arena, Old Hall Street, Middleton M24 1AG.
- Heywood Civic Centre

The sites are open **from 8am to 8pm seven days a week** and you must arrive on foot, by bike or in a car. – Please do not use public transport to get to the site. Face coverings are mandatory for ages 3yrs and above, and must be worn at all times during visit to testing site.

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Home testing

Home testing is aimed specifically at people who cannot get to test sites and can be arranged at <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/>

A test can also be booked on the NHS website using the link below which provides you options for either a drive-through test, for which you or someone you live with must have a car to get to a regional test site or you can request for a home testing kit for yourself and anyone else you live with who has coronavirus symptoms. There is an identity check for home test kits.

<https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able can, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

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Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

I understand that you may find this news worrying, please remember that if you need to contact us you can via office@stthomasmorerc.rochdale.sch.uk or jbutterworth@stthomasmorerc.rochdale.sch.uk or aquigg@stthomasmorerc.rochdale.sch.uk or sdodd@stthomasmorerc.rochdale.sch.uk

I am sure you will all join me in wishing the individual a safe recovery

Please #StaySafe and look after each other.

Best wishes,

Mrs J Butterworth

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