



# NEWSLETTER

## AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

No 10 – 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

[www.stthomasmorefirst.com](http://www.stthomasmorefirst.com)



*Our Virtues and Values for this term are  
“Generous & Grateful”*

### CATHOLIC LIFE

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year although it has not been the start that any of us could wish for. We have been able to welcome back some of the children into school and have loved seeing others during our live teaching sessions. It is very easy at times like this, to dwell on what we can't do or have. In our virtues and values this half term we are encouraging the children to celebrate and say thank you for the things we do have and to be generous with our gifts and time, putting others' needs in front of our own.

It is in the darkest hours that many reach out to God through prayer. It is also at those times we see goodwill and hope shine through. I have seen the enormous effort all the staff have gone to in the last week to provide both Remote Learning and class teaching in order to provide for the needs of the children. I give God thanks for their efforts and that I am blessed, as you are, with having such a supportive team.

The Lord teaches us that with God's grace anything is possible. He is here and present with us at St Thomas More and with each and everyone of you. May we remember that as we struggle to find yet another 'new normal' our faith is our strength.

### IMPORTANT

**PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS TO FIRST AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS IS  
FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021**

**Please see admissions details at the bottom of this newsletter.**

### LOCKDOWN PLACES

If you do not need the place for your child full-time due to part-time work, or at all due to changes in circumstances, please do not send them into school on days when there is an adult at home to care for them. This will reduce numbers of both adults and children on site reducing the risks to all. If your situation changes, please advise school.

### CORONAVIRUS

Please inform the school if your child tests positive for Covid-19 even if they are **not** in school. We still need to report cases to the LORT (Local Outbreak Response Team).

### SCHOOL HOURS

With effect from Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> January school will be open from **8.45am** and **not 8.30am**. School will close at 3.00pm.



### **FACE MASKS ON SCHOOL SITE**

Due to the increase of COVID-19 cases, in order to protect children and staff at school, **you will be required to wear a mask to come onto the site** - the mask must cover your nose and mouth and should not be a bandana. If you do not wear a mask, you will not be allowed through the gate. Children do not need to wear a mask but can do so if they wish.

If you are exempt from wearing a mask you will be asked to provide proof of this.

Please do not be offended if you are refused entry, as this is about keeping us all safe and the school to remain open for your children.

### **CLOTHING LAYERS**

For children who are in school, we will still be having the doors and windows open for part of each day. As the weather is so cold, please send your child to school with extra layers, such as a hoody or fleece to wear over (not instead of) their school jumper. They may wear boots instead of shoes if they wish.

### **FRUIT SCHEME**

The Government have suspended the Fruit Scheme during the National Lockdown. If your child is in school, please send them in with a piece of fruit for snack time.



### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND PARISH MASSES**

*"God is for us a refuge and strength, a helper close at hand in time of distress".*

These words were going through my mind as I reflected on the fact that the Government has allowed public worship to continue. This means Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Church services are continuing. Last Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January, half of our Year 4 children took their First Holy Communion during the weekly service. With God's grace we are now able to celebrate with the second half of the year group, who will do theirs this Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> January. Please keep all the children and families in your prayers and thank the Lord for the opportunity they have to celebrate this Sacrament. It is auspicious and a blessing at this time of National lockdown that we can start 2021 with a focus on receiving Christ into our lives.

### **ADMISSIONS**

Middle School – Year 4 children were given a pack back in September, with information about applying for their middle school place.

First School (Reception) - If you have a child born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 you need to apply for a place at a first school.

**Applications for both first and middle schools have to be made on-line.**

**Closing date 15<sup>th</sup> January '21. Parents and carers will be advised of the outcome on the National Offer Day on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021.**

If you wish to apply for a school place mid-year, please follow the link below for the latest guidance.

[http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20099/school\\_admissions/706/in-year\\_applications](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20099/school_admissions/706/in-year_applications)

*Learning, loving and living together with Christ*



**Our Lady of Lourdes**  
Catholic Multi-Academy