

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have had a fantastic, jam-packed term here at St Thomas More, with school life getting back to near normal, however, as we approach the Christmas holidays, we are again uncertain about what January may bring. Either way, we have a Plan A, B and C ready to go if and when the government informs schools of any change to public health. Plan A, which sees all children return to school in January can be found below.

### January Return

All pupils will return to school on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

The morning will be staggered to test the children before entering the classroom. A letter was shared earlier this week and further details can be found at <https://www.st-thomasmore.derbyshire.sch.uk/site/data/files/documents/admissions/D60566571F14CD8B9EBEB9E50436C484.pdf>

Here is a reminder of when children should arrive at school.

- Children arriving on public transport (train and coach) will need to be in school at the normal time.
- Year 11 to start school at the normal time.
- Those NOT using public transport – Year 7 have a 09.30am start.
- Those NOT using public transport – Year 8 have a 10.15am start.
- Those NOT using public transport – Year 9 have an 11.00am start.
- Those NOT using public transport – Year 10 have an 11.30am start.

### Covid-19 Testing over the Christmas Holidays

The Government is encouraging all staff, pupils and families to continue home testing over the holidays, twice a week. There does seem to be a national shortage of LFD tests, but should you need to order any, please use the following website <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> alternatively, your local pharmacy may have some supplies.

### Covid-19 Vaccinations

Young people aged 12 to 15 in England will be offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a minimum of 12 weeks from the first dose, following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

NHS England have now confirmed that, as with first doses, healthy school-aged children aged 12 to 15 will be able to receive their COVID-19 vaccination in their school next term, as well as having the option to receive the vaccine out of school, such as through vaccination centres. These offers will run in parallel.

Over the Christmas holidays, parents can already book first vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the [NHS booking system](#). Second doses will be available for eligible children by Monday 20 December.

Further information on [vaccination for 12 to 15 year olds](#) is available on the NHS website.



## Safeguarding and Further Support

If you are concerned for the welfare of a child whilst we are closed for the Christmas Holidays, further support and guidance can be found at:

<https://www.st-thomasmore.derbyshire.sch.uk/page/?title=HELP+for+Pupils%2C+Parents+%26amp%3B+Families&pid=45>

Alternatively, please contact Starting Point on 01629 533190 or in an emergency, the Police on 101/999.

## Uniform

When pupils return to school in January, they are expected to be wearing full, correct school uniform; jewellery, facial piercings and make-up are not permitted. Pupils should wear shoes and not trainers. On days when pupils have PE, they should come to school wearing their PE kit; to keep them warm when they have PE, they have the option to wear a school hoodie, available from Headmasters in New Mills <https://www.headmasters-schoolwear.co.uk/product/st-thomas-more-p-e-hoodie/> alternatively, pupils can wear a plain black hoodie.

In cold or wet weather, pupils should wear a coat going to and from school and during breaks and lunchtimes. In the event of extreme weather, such as snow, pupils may wear boots to school but should change into school shoes on arrival.

## Mrs. Galletly, Deputy Head

Mrs Galletly will be leaving St Thomas More this Christmas. She will be leaving us after nearly 3 years in role as Deputy Headteacher. Mrs Galletly will be joining Ofsted as a HMI (a lead Inspector) for the East Midlands. I want to thank Mrs Galletly for all her hard work, dedication and relentless drive to improve the lives of children at St Thomas More. I will miss her immense and unyielding support as my deputy and wish her the very best of luck as she moves forward in her career.

In January, Mr Ronson will be moving into a new position as Assistant Headteacher, and we also welcome a new Assistant Headteacher to STM, Mrs Bennett, who will be joining us from a very successful school in Tameside, St Thomas More in Denton.

Once again, thank you for everything you have done to support to the school over the last several months and for your kind, supportive messages to both the staff and I.

Take care and stay safe.

God bless and Merry Christmas!



Mr D Redfern  
Headteacher