



# St Thomas More

Catholic Primary School

Greenway Berkhamsted Herts HP4 3LF

Tel: 01442 385060 Fax: 01442 385061

Executive Headteacher: Mrs K Little

Head of School: Mrs M Anderton

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been brought to my attention by the Greenway School Headteacher that they have made a further revision to their safeguarding and site security provision. A letter has been sent out to their parents this afternoon outlining the points included in this letter. As you are aware, from the end of November, we agreed to lock the external gates and only provide access via contact with the school office. We liaised with Greenway School on this matter and it was agreed that both schools would lock the external gates during the school day. It was also agreed by Greenway that they would leave the side gate that opens out onto the alleyway leading to Gilbert Way unlocked outside the school hours to enable access to the grounds by people wishing to use their Daily Mile track or playground area.

When they started to lock their gates, they made it clear to parents that the situation would be under revision and if necessary, they would make changes to the arrangement. Unfortunately, they have now lost 2 expensive padlocks, parents are leaving the side gate unlocked, they've had vandalism to their EYFS play area and equipment, and vandals climbing on their school roof. Their caretaker has also found drug paraphernalia, including nitrous oxide cannisters and their kitchen roof has been damaged twice which has incurred cost to the school. They have also made us aware of the fact that during the Christmas holidays, they had contractors in to replace their library roof who observed 14 youths playing football on our school roof.

During the summer holidays, we had vandalism to our roof that caused the Year 5 classroom to flood and cost just under £5000 to repair. This was caused by people climbing onto our roof and removing the protective caps off the drain covers that prevent our drainage system from flooding. I am sure you will agree that this is not an appropriate use of our school budget. Two weeks ago, vandals broke into the sheds in our Forest School area.

The police have been made aware of these incidents and are making regular checks to both sites in the evenings and during the weekends/holidays.

The Board of Governors at Greenway has now decided to take permanent action to prevent any further damage. For both schools, site security is essential and we also need to be mindful of the financial constraints within which both schools operate. Our safeguarding duties are paramount and neither school allow unauthorized persons access to either site during the school day or after hours.

From Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January the following will apply to Greenway School:

1. The side gate exiting on to the alleyway leading to Gilbert Way will be **permanently** locked.
2. When the school is closed in the evenings, at weekends and during the holidays, the school will lock the main gates and the pedestrian gate to the school on Crossways. Those gates will be unlocked in the morning and closed at night during term time, therefore access to the school will be maintained for their school community.



Website: [www.stmore.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stmore.herts.sch.uk)  
Email: [admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk)



3. Greenway parents and children will continue to be able to enter and exit the area via the St Thomas More main gate at the start and end of the school day but not at lunchtime. **Greenway parents/carers/pupils should not use the St Thomas More corner gate (near the eco-garden) to access the Greenway site.**
4. When the playing fields are in use by outside providers at weekends, arrangements will be made with those using them to lock the gates on departure.

Greenway parents have also been made aware that if they currently use the side gate by the alleyway that if they walk further up the alleyway it will lead them to another alleyway that comes out onto Crossways.

So, St Thomas More parents/carers/pupils will also not have access to the site when the school is closed in the evenings, at weekends and during the school holidays.

I am certain that you will all agree that whilst this may cause some inconvenience to some families from both Greenway and St Thomas More, it is essential we have rigorous systems in place and work in partnership with our neighbouring school to protect our children and to protect the school sites.

We will continue to monitor matters and thank you for your support in this matter.

Kind regards,

Mrs Kathy Little  
Executive Headteacher



Website: [www.stmore.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stmore.herts.sch.uk)  
Email: [admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk)

