



St Thomas More
Catholic Primary School

Greenway Berkhamsted Herts HP4 3LF
Tel: 01442 385060
Executive Headteacher: Mrs Kathy Little
Head of School: Mrs Michelle Anderton

21ST September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Mrs Anderton and I have been working closely with the local Headteachers and the wider group of Dacorum Headteachers, to discuss how we can all best share information with parents eg curriculum evenings and parent consultations, during the current lockdown. All of the local schools are not having parents on site because it goes against the government guidelines and therefore we plan to do the same. I am writing to let you know that as the 'Meet the Teacher' sessions will be unable to take place face-to-face, the class teachers will be inviting you to join a virtual meet through your child's google account. As we have many families with more than one child in our school – and therefore across many different year groups, we are timetabling these carefully to avoid any clash of timing. This has also been reliant on our IT provider updating the google classes for each year group which was only just finalised last week. The teachers will be providing the usual copies of the curriculum outline for this academic year and are looking forward to seeing you albeit on a screen rather than in person.

The timetables will be shared over the next couple of days and are also linked to staff availability. If there are any parents who are unable to attend the session, then we will follow the same protocol as we have in the past. IF a parent was unable to come to school to meet the teacher and receive a paper copy of the curriculum offer, they were then sent out to the parent(s).

Regarding the Autumn Term parent consultation afternoon/evening, it is not possible to have parents on site and this is in line with every school in the Dacorum area. We have had to consider how we can best communicate with you regarding your child/children and making telephone calls during the school day are hindered by the fact that we only have 2 telephone lines. Again, we have consulted with all of the local schools and the general consensus is that the Autumn Consultations will take place either virtually or via telephone calls. We have already explained that our staff will be happy to talk to any parents who feel they would like a telephone conversation to discuss the 'settling in' of their child/children. All you will need to do once you have received the written summary of your child and how they have settled in, is to contact the school to request a call from the class teacher. The class teacher will then liaise with you about the most suitable time for a follow up conversation.



Telephone: 01442 385060 Fax: 01442 385061
E-mail: admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk
Website: www.stmore.herts.sch.uk



We have also had a query about what we can do to support a family if a child is at home because they have been told they have to self-isolate. In this instance, we will expect teachers to provide a link to the current learning through google classroom – that is if the child is well. If a child is ill, we do not expect them to be completing school work. If a child is off school for a few days and well enough to do some school work, then again, staff will provide a link to the current learning tasks. If a child is off whilst they are waiting for the results of a test, the same principle will apply. We are keen to ensure that all children who are at home have access to the learning tasks through google classroom. Many of our teachers are still navigating their way around google classroom and upskilling themselves to improve their own fluency and competency. This is a very different way of working for Primary Schools and in a strange way, it was reassuring when we met with the Dacorum Headteachers on Friday, to hear that every school is experiencing the same challenges.

Please bear with us whilst we too are trying to navigate our way through this new way of 'meeting' with parents and we will continue to reflect on our practice and make revisions where possible in response to parental and staff feedback.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Kathy Little
Executive Headteacher



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