



St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parent and Carers,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 31 October, new national restrictions will come into force on Thursday 5 November. We are awaiting further information on what these new national restrictions may mean for education settings.

Today, the weather has turned cooler and I am pleased to see that most children are now wearing a winter coat to school. I am sure we will see an increase in the number of hats, scarves and gloves as the weeks progress. Although each class has their own cloakroom either within their classroom or directly outside; some items are still being misplaced. We have noticed that it is often the case that these items do not have the child's name on them. **Please ensure that all items are clearly labelled with your child's full name.**

Our school risk assessment (available under the COVID pencil on our website) will be updated once we have received any new guidance. However, our current risk assessment informs parents that as a preventative measure all windows will remain open to allow ventilation into the classrooms. This has come from Government guidance and will continue to be the case; the windows will remain open just enough to provide constant background ventilation and opened more fully during breaks, when children are not in the class. We also have open internal doors which assists with creating an airflow. The heating in the school is on to ensure comfortable levels are maintained particularly within occupied classroom spaces.

School uniform

Increased ventilation may make school buildings cooler than usual over the winter months. While we maintain the benefits of our uniform, parents may wish to consider providing additional, suitable indoor items of clothing to be worn during the winter period in addition to the school's current uniform. I want to assure parents that this should not mean extra financial pressure on parents/carers. You may simply wish to provide an additional jumper (either school, or perhaps their navy PE hoodie) or ensure that your child is wearing a vest and/or a long-sleeved shirt if required. All children should now be wearing the navy tracksuit on PE days.

A reminder to parents: dropping off and collecting children from school

With lockdown measures coming into force this Thursday, it's now more important than ever for parents to follow social distancing rules when dropping off and collecting your children. Social distancing is vitally important to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

We are reminding parents and carers that when dropping off or collecting your children, you should:

Wash their hands (20 seconds = a thorough wash) before you arrive at school;

Keep more than 1 metre apart from other parents and staff (ideally 2 metres);

Only one member of the household should arrive at the school to collect your child/children (to help reduce the number of people at the school site during pick-up and drop off times);



Parents may wear a face covering when queuing. Face coverings are optional to wear outside: parents can choose to decide to wear one at the school drop off and pick up times.

We continue to ask that parents and carers do not congregate at the school gates or on the path before or after drop off or collection.

We all need to play our part to help reduce the risk of further COVID-19 cases in Medway. For details on the latest on local updates in Medway, see [here](#).

Reminder of Government Guidance for schools:

System of controls

This is the set of actions schools must take. They are grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection' and are outlined in more detail in the following sections.

Prevention

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
- 2) Where recommended, the use of face coverings in schools.
- 3) Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual.
- 4) Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- 5) Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents.
- 6) Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
- 7) Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- 8) Always keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.

Numbers 1 to 5, and number 8, must be in place in all schools, all the time.

Number 6 must be properly considered and schools must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.

Number 7 applies in specific circumstances.

Response to any infection

- 9) Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
- 10) Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community.
- 11) Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

Numbers 9 to 11 must be followed in every case where they are relevant.

For more information on 'What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.' Please see the following link: [what parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) to include the latest information on self-isolation and shielding, who needs to get a test for coronavirus (COVID-19), face coverings, assessment and exams.

Home Remote Learning

If your child is at home isolating because they or a member of the household is displaying COVID-19 symptoms, they must remain at home and follow Government guidance.



As parents and carers know, our website contains our VLE (Virtual Learning Environment); every week, the teachers have been uploading a weekly overview of the learning taking place in class. The overviews contain lessons, PowerPoints and website links. This learning will, as much as possible, link to our long-term curriculum plans and the learning those in school will be doing, while remaining manageable for staff to prepare on top of their usual weekly workload.

To do this, we will make use of a number of high-quality online materials (National Oak Academy, BBC Bitesize which fit with our school curriculum) and supplement these with our existing subscription packages which children are familiar with. We appreciate that some families won't be able to engage with the full timetable, and in this case suggest you focus on key learning priorities to try to reduce the impact on children's core Maths and English skills. Teachers will endeavour to view and feedback on as much of the children's work as they are able, while balancing their workload inside of school. Children at home should receive feedback at least twice a week following work being submitted by parent/carer via the class email.

These remain challenging times for everyone. I am extremely grateful to our amazing staff here who have demonstrated steadfast dedication to the welfare, safety and education of all of our children. The children are exceptional in their behaviour and sense of community; they really have impressed us all with their wonderful, positive attitudes. I am also very grateful to the many parents who have shared their support and kindness through comments and emails. As the Headteacher of our wonderful school and during these challenging times; it is lovely and welcome to know that you understand the constant changes that schools implement following Government Guidance often at very short notice. We have been and continue to work hard to keep school life consistent for the children's learning and well-being whilst maintaining our caring, family ethos to facilitate life long memories of happy primary school days for our wonderful children.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Prestidge
Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

