

February 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

I would like to introduce myself to you, my name is Mrs Victoria Michael. I took up the post of Head Teacher in January 2021. I am very much looking forward to working with you and the pupils of St Thomas's Centre.

As I write this end of term letter - yet again we are surprised at how fast time flies for all at St Thomas's Centre. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your continued support during these very difficult times – together we can make a difference.

Even in these trying times our school community has come together to provide a safe and secure environment for our pupils to continue with their education either online or in the Centre.

COVID-19 update

A **NEW** warning about the need for a coronavirus test even if you don't have the three classic symptoms of the disease (high temperature, a new persistent cough and a loss of smell or taste) has been issued.

Blackburn with Darwen's director of public health Professor Dominic Harrison had said there are 11 other milder signs of Covid-19 infection. They include diarrhoea, a persistent headache, fever and chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, and nausea or vomiting. Across Lancashire we've seen reports of people who have only experienced, for example, diarrhoea or a persistent and unusual headache lasting more than 24 hours who later turn out to have a confirmed Covid-19 case.

When you are booking a test, if you don't have the classic symptoms, simply say you don't. A few clicks later on the website, you can then choose the option which says: 'My local council or health protection team has asked me (or someone I live with) to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms. We ask all parents to follow this advice regarding taking your child for a test if they suffer any of the above symptoms. It is advised that you follow self-isolation national guidance until the test results are confirmed.



Half-term

As you are aware school breaks for half term on **Friday 12th February 2021 at 12:10 pm**. School will reopen either for online learning or face to face learning to pupils on **Monday 22nd February 2021 at 8:45 am**.

We have been requested by central government to continue to track and trace positive COVID cases in school. We request parents / carers to ensure you inform school on 01254 958401 if your child has symptoms of COVID and are awaiting a test result or has a positive test for COVID up to and including Monday 15th February. This will allow school to track and trace any close contacts and ensure isolation takes place for the correct staff and pupils.

Once again, many thanks for your support in ensuring we as school can continue to support our community in combating the virus through our test and trace processes in school.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Victoria Michael
Head Teacher St Thomas's Centre

