



Friday 5th March 2021

Update Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Parents,

On Monday, parents were sent the updated Frequently Asked Questions regarding the re-opening of the school to all pupils on Monday 8th March. You can find a copy of this document on the school website: <https://www.st-theresas.barnet.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/FAQ-Guidance-for-Parents-St.-Therasas-Feb-2021-1.pdf>

Face-coverings

A reminder that all parents who enter the school premises (i.e. walk past the school gate either into the school car park or school playground) will need to wear a face covering, unless exempt.

Changes to Morning Drop-Off Procedures

A reminder that from Monday 8th March we are changing the morning drop off procedures for all pupils in Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6. In the Frequently Asked Questions sent to parents on Monday, we explained how we are now asking the Junior children to walk to their classrooms in the morning, unaccompanied by their parents or carers; this is to reduce the number of people using the path around the outside of the school building. If your child is in Y3, Y4, Y5 or Y6 please say goodbye to them in the carpark.

We have not made changes to the afternoon pick-up procedure.

Pupil Well-Being

Some parents have been asking about the assessments the children will be completing when they return to school. Please note that the assessments will not take place next week and that the children will be given time to settle back into routine. The assessments are only to provide the school with a baseline so that the teachers can plan the curriculum accordingly.

Next week, we will be giving the children opportunities to talk to each other and share their experiences of lockdown; over the following few weeks we will be using resources which will teach the children about Self-efficacy, Hope, Gratitude and Connectedness.

Barnet Council has created a booklet for parents (*Back to School Guide* - https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/back_to_school_booklet_1.pdf) with methods to help manage your child's anxiety, fix disrupted sleep patterns and build their resilience.

Following on from the successful Children' Mental Health Week before the half term break, the children at St. Theresa's are being given the opportunity to try a new mindfulness app (Seedlings: <https://seedlingswellbeing.co.uk/>) for free for one month; the subscription would need to be cancelled before the end of the month if you choose not to continue using the app. If you are interested, please email alison@peacefulplay.co.uk.

Secondary School Announcement Day

On Monday, the Year 6 pupils were informed which secondary school they have been allocated a place for in September 2021. We hope that most of you are happy with your allocation; if your child



was not allocated your first choice and you have some questions about the school you were allocated, please do get in touch.

Asymptomatic Testing for Parents and adults in households with Children at School

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This does not apply to secondary school pupils, primary and secondary school staff who should take-weekly tests using home test kits provided by their school.

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles. Tests are fast, easy and completely free; here are the different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test:

- Through your employer if they offer testing to employees.
 - Contact your employer to find out more.
- At a local test site.
 - To find your nearest test site visit <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>.
- By collecting a home test kit from a test site.
 - You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Each pack contains 7 tests.
 - Anyone 18 or over can collect.
 - Most collection points are open from 1.30pm to 7pm. You can check online if the location is open or busy before you go. You do not need to make an appointment.
 - Do not visit a collection point outside opening hours, as it may be used to test people with coronavirus symptoms outside these times.
 - To find your nearest home test kit collection point visit <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/findatestcenter.html>
- By ordering a home test kit online.
 - If you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online.
 - Do not order online if you can get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most.
 - To order rapid lateral flow home test kits visit <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

St. Theresa's Talent Show

We have continued to be thoroughly entertained with the children's entries for the Talent Show. If your child has entered the talent show and has not received a message from either myself or Mr Troy



acknowledging their entry, please do let the class teacher know via Seesaw and they will pass the message on. Remember, the deadline is today at 3pm; the winners will be announced next Friday.

Comic Relief

On Friday 19th March the school will be participating in Red Nose Day for Comic Relief. Since Comic Relief began in 1985, it has helped support 105.6 million people across the UK and around the world. The charity works to improve mental health, create safe places for everyone, help children to survive and thrive, and work to help people to speak out and seek help to escape fear and discrimination.

In the week beginning Monday 15th March, the children will be able to purchase a red nose from the school for £1.50 – should they wish to. Each child will only be able to purchase one red nose in the first instance, but may be able to purchase more if we have any red noses left over once everyone has had the opportunity to buy one.


On Friday 19th March (Red Nose Day) the children may come to school dressed in red clothes (or wearing anything red) for a £1 donation.

Do contact me if you have any further questions – and we are very much looking forward to seeing everybody next week.

Thank you,

Barbara Costa

Barbara Costa
Executive Headteacher

	
Reception	The Reception Class: for all their effort and attitude towards learning. Mrs Decuseara is so proud of you!
Year 1	Callum: for consistently producing good work on Seesaw every day and showing all his progress.
Year 2	Joelle: for working diligently and enthusiastically the entire time she had to learn from home.
Year 3	Alice: For her great effort and hard work throughout remote learning.
Year 4	The Year 4 Class: for their dedication and commitment to online learning.
Year 5	Margaret: for the perseverance and determination she has shown towards her learning. Very well done Margaret.
Year 6	Mia: for all the amazing learning she has produced throughout lockdown.