

St Thomas' Primary School



Spring Term

When we broke up for Christmas, we certainly didn't expect to be back in lockdown again. However the children seem to be adapting well to their online learning again. There have been glitches/problems with Microsoft Teams but we are noticing that this has improved. It is always a challenge adapting to new ways of learning however we aim to support our learners throughout this. The school is currently running a Hub for key worker/vulnerable children and to ensure equity all learners will be undertaking the same work, should they be at home or in school.

Key Worker places

Given the further restrictions announced by the First Minister last Wednesday and the continuing high numbers of infection, I do think it is worth repeating the message regarding key worker places. I want to ensure that everyone is very clear that in order to follow the government guidance about keeping our contacts to an absolute minimum we must make sure that key worker places are allocated strictly to pupils where both parents are key workers and there are no other childcare alternatives. It must also be stressed that if you are offered a place it is strictly for the days/times that you are working outwith the home.

Parents/carers of pupils attending the Hub at school should be mindful of COVID symptoms or illnesses. Even if symptoms seem unrelated to COVID it is important be cautious before sending your child into the Hub. Covid-19 Symptoms and advice as per NHS guidance can be accessed [here](#).

Please also be reminded that due to ventilation purposes the school will be cooler therefore children might want to wear extra layers or take an additional item of clothing to wear.

Online Learning

Thank you all so much for your support, the first week of online learning went really well. Pupils are being very well supported by their families and by school staff. I would like to say again that we don't want you to feel under any pressure to complete all the set tasks every day.

The web-site Bumps2bairns (<https://bumps2bairns.com/>) has a really useful message and I know Mrs McCann has shared this with you through Twitter. I would also like to share some of that message here.

This website is for families with younger children but the message is really useful for us all - As we go into another lockdown, parents and carers have a lot to think about. Many of us are a bit scared and uncertain – and if there are money or other worries too, this just adds to the stresses. So, it is ok to do what we can do. And not worry about what we can't manage. What really matters for young children? It is "just" time to play and to chat. If you do things that everyone enjoys and can chatter about, then learning is automatically going to happen. It just will. A little bit every day is better than trying to do too much and getting nowhere. It may look simple to you, but to a child everything is still a wonder and something to explore and learn about. Fun outdoors, fun indoors, sharing laughter, doing things together – children of any age will learn what they need. School and nursery programmes and webpages of resources are there to help you, not be a burden or a standard to live up to.

School Registration

Registration weeks for school will be 18th-29th January 2021. See details below:

You must register your child with your LOCAL CATCHMENT SCHOOL between 18th and 29th January 2020 if:

- **your child is five years old on or before the 18th August 2021; or**
- **your child's 5th birthday falls between 18th August 2021 and 28 February 2022.**

Register online

The whole registration process, including placing requests, should now be completed online. You'll just need to have scanned copies of your child's birth certificate and proof of address to upload and submit online. Registration forms will be available to complete from 18th January at www.moray.gov.uk/registration

If you wish to enrol at one of our Roman Catholic schools, in addition to the documentation above, you will also be required to provide your child's Roman Catholic Baptismal certificate.

Find out more at www.moray.gov.uk/registration, including catchment area maps, placing requests and deferred entry to school.

Nursery Registration

Registration for 2021/22 space at nursery is also taking place from 18th January to 29th January. See the link below:

http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_42682.html

Your Views are Important to Us

Thank you for your support with remote learning. We would like you to give your views on how you feel remote learning is for you and your child. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey below (see QR code or link for access). Thank you:



[Remote Survey Link](#)

Please remember we are here to help if you are experiencing problems with online learning. We can also provide details of financial assistance (in confidence) if you are struggling. Contact the school via email or phone if you require any assistance.



Take Care and Stay Safe Everyone😊

