



New King's Road, London SW6
T: 020 7736 2318 E: info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk

Dear Parents,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement about the new national lockdown, we have reviewed our COVID-secure approaches for the next half term. Our most recent Coronavirus Policy and risk assessment is [here](#), as well as on our website.

One of the key priorities during the next lockdown is to keep schools open. We will do all that we can to maintain continuity of education for your children - and we are grateful to every member of staff for their professionalism and commitment which makes this possible. Many schools have had to deal with positive coronavirus cases last half term, and it is likely that our school will be faced with this challenge in the near future. It is clear that we will need the support of every member of the Thomas's Academy community, if we are to keep our school functioning effectively over the coming months.

This half term, we will be asking every member of our school community to adhere strictly to these **Six Steps for all**:

1. Do the basics - hands, face, space
2. Daily screening for symptoms by parents and teachers
3. Don't be a close contact! (if you can avoid it)
4. Hygiene
5. Ventilation
6. Face coverings

These steps are set out in more detail below. By adhering to these guidelines, we can help keep all members of our school community safe.

A key change this half term is that staff will be wearing masks in communal areas around the school. Staff have been given the option to wear masks in the classrooms too, however most are not doing so. Please remember, that we are asking all parents and carers to wear face coverings at all times on the school site.

Thomas's Academy places the safeguarding of children's welfare as our very highest priority. If you have any concerns about a child's safety or welfare, inside or outside school, please contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads or call us on the number above.

We would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance that all families adhere to the national lockdown regulations. We all need to play our part at this moment, and so we urge you to think carefully about any mixing of households through activities such as playdates.

Government advice is that all children should continue to go to school unless they are isolating or have been advised to shield by the government via a new written shielding notification. We are expecting all children to attend school as normal at this point. Remote learning activities will be provided for any children who are isolating, but will not be provided for other absences.

We will continue to communicate transparently with you over the coming weeks, alerting you as soon as is practically possible in the likely event of positive cases. Thank you for your continuing support as we negotiate the coming months together.

Yours sincerely

Miles Chester
Executive Head

Suzanne Kelly
Associate Head



New King's Road, London SW6
T: 020 7736 2318 E: info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk

Six Steps for All

1. Do the basics

- Hands
- Face
- Space

2. Daily screening for symptoms by parents and teachers.

Protect the community. Check every member of your household every morning and do not come to school if there is any sign of:

- A new continuous cough
- A high temperature
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

3. Don't be a close contact! (if you can avoid it).

A 'Close contact' of a positive case is:

- Anyone who has been within 1m of someone with coronavirus
- Anyone who has been within 2m of someone with coronavirus for more than 15 mins
- Anyone who has travelled in a small vehicle, or near a positive case in a large vehicle

These close contacts will be required to self-isolate in the event of a positive coronavirus diagnosis at the school.

4. Hygiene

- Continuous cleaning of surfaces
- Regular hand-washing
- Cover nose and mouth if coughing or sneezing ('Catch it, bin it, kill it')

5. Ventilation

- Open windows and doors for natural ventilation
- Maximise fresh air

6. Face coverings

- In all communal areas
- For all adults including school staff

Thomas's Academy places the safeguarding of children's welfare as our very highest priority. If you have any concerns about a child's safety or welfare, inside or outside school, please contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads or call us on the number above.