



St. Anthony's

SPECIALIST SCHOOL ●●

Headteacher: Mr Robert Page
Tel: (01843) 292015
Email: admin@st-anthonys.kent.sch.uk
Web: www.st-anthonys.kent.sch.uk

18th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Staff

It has been an exceptional year with challenges beyond all our scope of experience...and there is a lot of experience at St Anthony's! I would like to thank you all for your patience and commitment to do what was right for our pupils, parents and staff.

I have been amazed by the resilience you have all shown during these ever changing times...sometimes on an hourly basis, and you have all coped marvellously.

A potential benefit of the school having to go to remote learning the last two weeks of term is that if we have all followed the rules of self-isolating we should all be COVID free and able to get out during the holidays, while still following the Tier 3 Government Guidance.

The Department of Education has asked schools to continue to support the National Test and Trace programme up till Dec 24th. So if any pupils or members of staff develop COVID symptoms please let us know on **07394 617054** not the school number please. We will check this number each day between 10 -11am for any updates.

As for Term 3, I am very unclear what is happening, as the government only this week has announced a number of significant changes to tackle COVID, but left the school trying to make sense of what impact it will have. It appears that we will be able to offer COVID tests to staff and pupils, so that we will hopefully not be required to isolate the whole school. There will be more information to follow about this. The other announcement was that secondary schools would have a staggered start to the term, this does not apply for special schools so pupils will return the first week. However, to support schools we have an additional training day on 4th January to prepare for the testing. So pupils will return on Tuesday 5th January.

Watson Cup and Burney Award Winners

Today in our virtual assembly I was very pleased to announce the winners;

Watson Cup Primary – Tyler S Milne Class 'for his huge improvement in his behaviour and attitude to learning'

Burney Award Secondary Ellie D in Walliams 'for never giving up in maths, even when she wants to.' Ellie's determination has meant she has doubled her assessment score since September!

I also awarded a Headteacher's Award – Logan B – 'for his unwavering attitude to learning, be it in school or at home during isolation'.

PTFA

The PTFA would like to say thank you for supporting the virtual PTFA Christmas Raffle this year. Winners were drawn on Wednesday 16th December with names posted on Class Dojo that day. A very big thank you to the local businesses who supported the raffle with donations.

St Anthony's is always well supported by the local community and I wish to say a very big thank you to Mother's Union Holy Trinity Church Margate, Our Lady Star of the Sea RC Church, Broadstairs and staff at Grummants.



Christian getting his hamper.



Jack and his brother Isaac.

Remember if you know of someone who may benefit from the services of the food bank please contact the school office 01843 292015. Distribution of food parcels is from St Paul's Church Cliftonville. You will need a voucher to obtain a food parcel, we have a supply of vouchers if needed or click on the link below.

<https://cliftonville.wixsite.com/thanetfoodlink>

Thanet Community Hub – Covid hotline: Protecting the most vulnerable

Thanet District Council has set up a [dedicated helpline](#) for residents who are vulnerable and are self-isolating or social shielding in line with NHS Advice.

This is to ensure that the most vulnerable people in the community, who are unable to go outside to buy supplies, are helped to get the things they need.

The helpline is for people who do not have friends or family around to assist them.

To access this, **complete the online form** or call 01843 577 330.

The helpline is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. A dedicated team of people are taking calls, handling requests and connecting callers with the relevant organisations or council services, which are in place to provide support for vulnerable people at this time. Over the Christmas/New Year period, an answerphone service will be on and messages checked daily and dealt with. All other general enquiries must still be directed to the main switchboard number: 01843 577 000.



St. Anthony's

SPECIALIST SCHOOL ●●

Headteacher: Mr Robert Page
Tel: (01843) 292015
Email: admin@st-anthonys.kent.sch.uk
Web: www.st-anthonys.kent.sch.uk

KCC and NHS – SEND Strategy Consultation

Together with the local NHS, KCC is launching a [consultation on a new strategy](#) to improve the outcomes, experiences and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families. At the heart of the strategy is the ambition to make sure that all children and young people with SEND and their families have a positive experience in Kent, with their needs identified early, the chance to be a part of their local community and fully involved in decisions about their support. It has been shaped by the involvement and feedback given by children and young people, parents and carers, Kent PACT (Parents and Carers Together – a forum for parents of children and young people with disabilities and additional needs) and other key stakeholders. The consultation closes on Thursday, 4 February 2021.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, restful and peaceful festive period. Above all, with the pandemic raging throughout Kent please STAY SAFE and have a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a Happy New Year to you all.

Best wishes,

Robert Page
Headteacher