



St. Anthony's

SPECIALIST SCHOOL ●●●

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15th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to say thank you on behalf of all school staff for your continued support of the school, it is very much appreciated.

This week we welcomed back our secondary pupils, but with a good number of families choosing to keep their child at home, we have been averaging 40-50% attendance each day which is manageable for the school, and allows us to keep our bubbles small and our pupils and staff safe.

The government appears to have finally listened to the appeals of special schools and have correctly decided to allow us to support those families who have decided to follow the advice and stay at home. This means we will be able to supply those pupils entitled to FSM with vouchers, as we have done in the previous lockdowns. The school will be able to order vouchers starting on Monday 18th January, so we hope to get this sorted and get vouchers to you by the end of next week. If your child is attending school we will continue to provide hot meals for them each day.

If you are keeping your child at home, we are not able to provide remote learning on Teams as we did before Christmas without overburdening teachers. However, we are formulating a wide ranging offer that will be published shortly on the website and Dojo. If you require support, please do liaise with class teachers, as they are always happy to help.



Ellie D winner of Burney Shield Term 2

Support for families

[Further government support](#) is available for families who are struggling because of coronavirus (COVID-19). If families need urgent help, they can [contact their local council](#) to find out what services are available in their area.

COVID Winter Support

A £170 million [Covid Winter Grant Scheme](#) announced on 8 November 2020 is being run by local authorities in England.

The funding will be ring-fenced, with at least 80% earmarked to support with food and essential utility costs, and will cover the period up to the end of March 2021. Local authorities will receive the funding in the coming month.

It will allow local authorities to directly help the hardest-hit families and individuals over the winter period.

Reducing the chance of catching or spreading the virus in your home

Coronavirus spreads from person to person through small droplets, tiny airborne particles known as aerosols and through direct contact.

To reduce the chance of catching or passing on coronavirus to or from the people you live with, you should:

- wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds
- regularly clean frequently touched surfaces
- make sure you let plenty of fresh air into your home without getting uncomfortably cold. This should be balanced with other considerations such as comfort, safety and security.

There is further guidance on:

- [letting fresh air in](#)
- [grandparents, parents and children living together where someone is at increased risk or has possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)
- [households with a possible or confirmed coronavirus infection](#)
- [landlords, tenants and local authorities](#)

Latest Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information for Thanet 14 Jan 2021

National lockdown: stay at home.

- You must stay at home. This is the single most important action we can all take to protect the NHS and save lives.
- You must not leave your home unless necessary.
- Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or bubble.

Please remember to – **Wash hands – Cover face – Make space**

Robert Page
Headteacher