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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope as many of you as possible managed to get out and about inbetween the showers last week and are ready for Term 2...

I want to thank you for making Term 1 such a positive experience for the children – they returned after the long break full of enthusiasm and with such a clear wish to be back in school and to make the most of all St Peter's has to offer.

And what a difference a term makes – the week before Term 1 started we were all getting ten pounds off to eat out to help out; the weekend before Term 2 begins we get told that we are all going in to the second national lockdown this Thursday.

Throughout this whole pandemic I have tried to be as open and honest with you as possible. Leading a school in these times hasn't always been easy, and the guidance sent to us from the government hasn't always been either clear or well timed.

As of today, there has been no new guidance sent to schools, so it is my intention to keep St Peter's open and running in the same manner we did so well last term.

So children will still come to school, will still get their rich and broad curriculum of music, dance and drama, of science, history and geography and of course not forgetting their maths and English lessons!

We will still run our breakfast club, our after school clubs and our extended day – we know how important these are to our children and families.

And we will still do all we can to do this in the safest possible environment for children and staff alike.

So children will still be asked to sanitise their hands throughout the day, will still stay in their class bubbles and superbubbles, will still have the staggered playtimes and lunchtimes and will still keep being reminded of the need to respect others' personal space in the classroom and playground.

And I ask you as parents to play your part in supporting the school to make this all possible.

Our lengthened registration time at the start of the day is working very smoothly – and we will keep the opening of the school gates to the earlier time of 8.35am as this has really helped to prevent crowding.

I am going to change the collection at the end of the day ever so slightly as I feel that we are getting too many people gathering at one time. **From Thursday, the first day of lockdown, the gates will still be opened at 3.05pm and I will now allow children to be collected from their classrooms between this time and 3.15pm.**

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3v16



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The aim is to spread the time that children can be collected to reduce the number of parents waiting outside the classrooms for that 3.15pm moment. Children going to clubs or those in Years 5 and 6 who have permission to walk home on their own will still leave the classroom at 3.15pm.

Can I also ask you to think about others as we deliver and collect children. **The case numbers are rising in Thanet and I know many parents would feel more secure if more parents wore face masks at these times.**

We also have to be very mindful of trying to comply with the spirit of the lockdown directives and so I would ask you not to mix socially and allow children to play on the equipment, instead leaving promptly once you have picked your children up at the end of the day. **To help minimise this the playground gates will be closed promptly at 3.25pm.** We need to do all we can to ensure that schools are not seen as a place where the virus is spread – we really do not want this lockdown to include school closures like the last. **So please, think of the end of the day as a collect and go system – always easier in the winter anyway!**

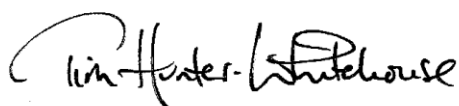
One last request – please do keep actual contact with the school office to a minimum. Our lovely office staff are more than happy to answer queries by phone or email but please only come to their window in person if there is an emergency, not to drop off forgotten equipment, packed lunches, homework – they cannot deliver to the class bubbles.

I'm sure you will all of heard of schools across Thanet being closed or having to send bubbles home. We have been lucky thus far at St Peter's but it is really important that you know how your child can access the home learning we are uploading to Purple Mash each week.

I will write to you all again if and when the government's guidance to schools changes and will let you know if we are affected.

As I have said, my absolute hope is that this lockdown is quite different to the first. For now, schools stay open.

Stay safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Hunter-Whitehouse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Hunter-Whitehouse, Headteacher