



25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## **St Teresa's School to reopen to all pupils on the 8th and 9th March 2021.**

Dear Parents,

As you may know, the Government has announced their plan for a cautious reopening of society over the coming weeks and months. Schools will reopen from Monday 8th March as part of the first phase of this process.

We believe that, largely due to our collective efforts over the past few months, we will be able to open fully over two days and ensure that all children can come back to school in the safest way possible. It is important to note that whilst positive cases and death rates are falling locally - case numbers remain extremely high compared to when we returned to school in September. We will therefore be applying the following measures.

### **Staggered start dates to allow the safe transition of children back into school.**

#### **Monday 8th March - Early Years and Key Stage 1 only return to school.**

(Please note KS2 children will learn remotely at home with the exception of key worker / vulnerable children who have been asked to contact the school office directly if they need support provision)

#### **Tuesday 9th March - Key Stage 2 return to school.**

All children should arrive in school between 8.30am and 8.50am via the allocated bubble door and be collected at either 3.10pm or 3.20pm via the same door as before Christmas.

**Please note that parents are asked to continue to wear a face covering whilst dropping off and collecting children before and after school.**

### **Year group bubbles.**

Children will continue to work in year group 'bubbles' at this time. Parents must continue to inform the school of suspected or positive cases of COVID 19 via the [child absence form](#) on the school website. As previously advised, it may be necessary to ask individuals or groups of children to self-isolate in the event of a positive case.

"Love proves itself by deeds so how am I to show my love?" St Thérèse of Lisieux



## Hands, Face, Space

Safety remains our number one priority at this time and with this in mind we will be following the protocols below.

- All members of the school community are asked to **wash/sanitise their hands regularly** throughout the day.
- All staff members and **children in Key Stage 2 are asked to wear a face covering whilst inside** the building. Please note that this is not compulsory and no child will be challenged for not wearing one. Please note that this measure will be reviewed regularly and we hope that it will not be necessary in the longer term.
- All members of the community are asked to ensure that there is a **2m distance** between each other. We do however appreciate that this is not always possible in classrooms.

In addition to the safety measures above, staff will also routinely **check the temperatures** of those in the bubble. Parents will be contacted if a child has a temperature above 37 degrees Celsius will be advised to seek further medical advice. **Please do not send your children to school if they have any symptoms of COVID 19 or are generally unwell.** Always check with the school if you are unsure or follow the advice below from the Government.  
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>.

It is not possible to remove all risk but we are confident that the measures we take in school provide us with the best opportunity to keep one another safe.

## Uniform

We appreciate that many children may have outgrown their school uniform and that it may be difficult to organise new items. We are therefore continuing to relax the need for compulsory school uniform until after the Easter holidays when we hope that shops will be more accessible.

## Provision for school lunches.

Children who were receiving a hot school dinner at the end of Autumn term will continue to receive a hot school dinner. Please email [dinners@st-teresas.merton.sch.uk](mailto:dinners@st-teresas.merton.sch.uk) if you wish to opt your child in or out of receiving hot school dinners detailing which days they wish a hot meal each week if not every day. You must do this before 09:00 on Monday 1st March so that sufficient ingredients are delivered for the following week. Children may bring packed lunches if they prefer making sure that no sharing of any kind takes place to reduce transmission risks. Pupils bringing packed lunches will bring home uneaten food, wrappings etc., to reduce transmission risks. Children will continue to eat lunches in classrooms for the time being.

## Wraparound Care and School Clubs.

We are not currently offering Wraparound care or clubs outside of school time. We hope to resume some provision in the coming weeks following a review of the local information regarding COVID 19 cases. More details regarding extracurricular and wraparound activities will be sent to you over the next few weeks.

We hope that this information is clear. The partnership that we have developed with yourselves has been very special indeed, and I would urge any of you with any questions to let us know so that we may support you.

Your children, with your help, have been nothing short of heroic over the past year. The school community is stronger than ever before proving that, with God, anything is possible!

We move forwards together!

Kind regards

Mr Dachtler