



St. Teresa's
R.C. Primary School

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Headteacher
Mr Justin Dachtler

Dear Parents,

17 September 2021

It has been another terrific week in school. The NED values of Never give up, Encourage others and Do your best have been highly evident across the whole school, no more so than in our Nursery, where children have settled so well following a staggered start last week!

I am sure that, like me, many of you marvelled at 18 year old Emma Raducanu's incredible win at the US Tennis Open last weekend. Her commitment to her sport and application of our NED values is a great role model to young people across the country. It was therefore rather fitting that the Wimbledon Junior Tennis Initiative (WJTI) began a 6 week Tuesday residency this week. WJTI uses these free sessions for schools to spot talent such as Emma Raducanu and provide further coaching. We look forward to seeing what happens next - you never know - some of your children could be the champions in years to come!

I must apologise in advance for the length of this week's letter in which I will set out new arrangements for drop off and collection from Monday 27th September, continued safety measures in school to stop the spread of COVID 19 and extra curricular clubs.

Arrangements for dropping off and collection from Monday 27th September 2021:

The Government updated [parental guidance](#) for the Autumn Term 2021 and makes it very clear that schools should maintain protocols around cleaning and hygiene. Also appropriate ventilation in classrooms and other public spaces in school. The guidance also states that schools should no longer require 'bubbles' to be maintained.

As you are aware, we have taken the view that we would maintain existing measures from the summer term initially and slowly unwind from these as appropriate, whilst keeping a close eye on COVID cases locally and in particular in schools in Scotland who returned to school earlier than UK schools.

The following arrangements are proposed to begin on Monday 27th September. They are designed to reflect the significant difference between transmission risks inside, compared to outside. Please note that it may be necessary to revert to revised measures, if the situation regarding COVID 19 infection rates in school or locally increases significantly. We will continue to be led by Public Health England in these cases.

Children entering school from Monday 27th September

We would like Children to enter school between 8.30am and 8.50am via three main entrances:

- Middleton Road (existing entrance for Nursery and Reception children)
- Bishopsford Road (Church entrance)*
- Montacute Road (main pupil entrance)



Children will continue to go straight into class once they have entered school. This 'soft start' time is supervised by year group staff and is useful for children to finish off work, read or receive feedback on their work.

All gates around the school will be open in the morning and afternoon to allow for the freeflow of movement around the perimeter of the school.

Latecomers (after 8.50am) should enter school via the school office.

*The church gate is a pilot idea designed to spread the flow of traffic in the mornings around the school. We are asking for children using this entrance to be dropped by the gate adjacent to the school allotment and the back of the church. Please note that this gate will be supervised.

Children leaving school from Monday 27th September

Children should be collected from the playground at the following times:

- Nursery - 3.30pm
- Reception and KS1 - 3.15pm
- KS2 - 3.20pm

Collection points will be clearly marked for each year group.

Gates to the church entrance (Bishopsford Road) and Middleton Road will be opened between 3.05pm and 3.10pm

Please note that children who have not been collected by 3.25pm will be taken to Wraparound club and may be subject to a charge.

Please can we encourage families to walk/cycle to school wherever possible. You may remember that Merton Council have installed parking enforcement cameras in Montacute Road and the Church car park and driveway cannot be used by parents dropping or collecting children. We understand that families may need to drive children to school but request that cars are parked away from the school and families walk the last section.

It will be wonderful to have parents back on the playground at the end of school. This is a crucial part of our contact with you and we are looking forward to seeing you. Do look out for members of the FOST team who have proposed a number of exciting events including a grand cake sale on the 1st October to celebrate St Teresa's feast day!

Continued safety measures to reduce the spread of COVID 19.

The school will not be using the term 'bubble' to describe distinct groups from Monday 27th September. This is because we want this term to have greater meaning should we have to reintroduce specific measures in the future.

Ventilation will be a top priority. We are expecting to be able to monitor air quality more closely with help from Government projects. Children should continue to dress appropriately as the Autumn approaches and windows and doors are open.

Hygiene and cleaning protocols will remain strictly in place.

School staff will be encouraged to complete asymptomatic testing regularly.

We will continue to ask parents to follow [COVID 19 Guidance](#) Please do not send children to school if they are unwell with any COVID 19 symptoms even if they are mild. Please arrange for a PCR test to be taken and report the absence via the [Child Illness and Absence form](#) the school website. This is really important at present as the school is no longer asked to complete track and trace alongside Public Health England.

Extra Curricular Clubs.


I am very pleased to say that we will be able to run a range of clubs in various year groups from Monday 27th September. We will look to introduce more clubs later in the term.

Please note that all clubs are accessed through the Parent Pay system. It will help your child greatly if you [set up alerts in Parent Pay](#) so that you are the first to know that a club is available for booking. Otherwise, you risk your child being disappointed as clubs are limited in numbers of participants. The first set of clubs available will go on line from Monday. You will notice that all school clubs now carry a charge in line with Wraparound care hourly fees. The charge reflects the costs associated with clubs. Families who are entitled to income based free school meals are able to access one complete set of club sessions free, per term; just log in to parent pay as normal to and give permission for your child to join the club but do not make any payment.

Please find instructions on how to set up Parent Pay text or email alerts [here](#)

We do hope that the information above is useful. The past 18 months have taught us that we need to adapt to a changing set of circumstances. We will of course be listening to any feedback from parents on the new measures and will continue to welcome any further ideas that you may have.

In the meantime stay safe and have a wonderful weekend.



Mr J Dachtler
Headteacher