



Head Teacher: Mr D Hennessey

March 2021: Return to school information.

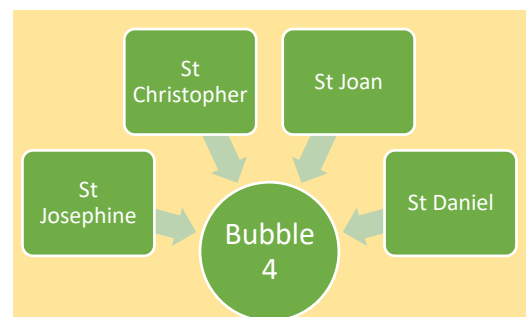
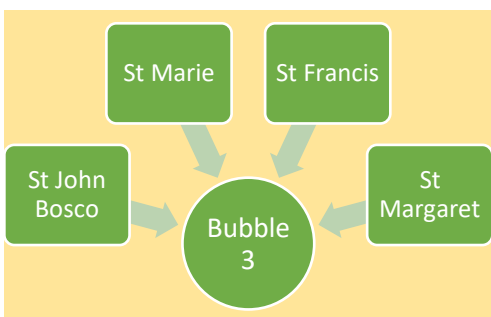
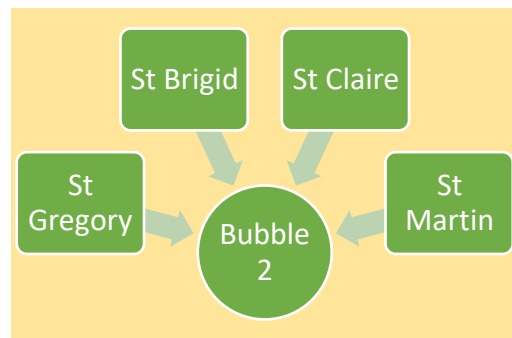
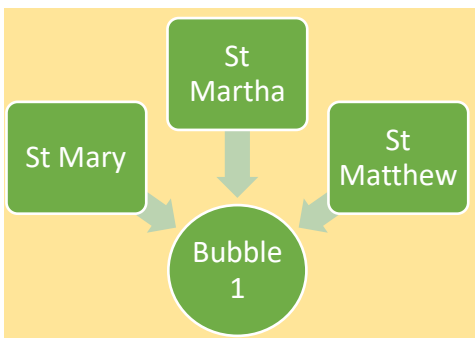
The school is planning to reopen to all year groups on Monday 8th March.

Much of the information set out in this letter is the same as per the September return, but please read through so as to familiarise yourselves once again and to note any additional changes.

In line with government guidelines, we are continuing to offer a full curriculum to all children. The government now also states that school attendance is compulsory and the possibility of fines for non-attendance may resume.

Following a thorough review of the school's risk assessment, based upon government guidance, we will continue to operate a 'bubbles' system within the school. For the majority of time, children will be kept within their class groups, but there may be times that they are grouped as a year group or within the whole bubble.

Break times and lunchtimes will be with the full bubble, but learning time will generally be within class or year groups.



Arrival and Departure

To maintain social distancing in line with government guidelines, there will be a staggered start and end to the school day. Different bubbles will also be dropped off and collected from different gates. We ask that you work with us in maintaining social distancing by keeping to the allotted times, gates, being prompt and respectful to neighbours/properties.

Bubble	Gate	Arrival time	Departure time
Bubble 1 Nursery and Reception	Mitcham Park Gate	9:00	3:30
Bubble 2 Year 1 and 2	Cricket Green Gate	9:00	3:30
Bubble 3 Years 3 and 4	Cricket Green Gate	8:45	3:15
Bubble 4 Years 5 and 6	Mitcham Park Gate	8:45	3:15

We ask that, wherever possible, only **one adult of the household** accompanies their child to school and drops off at the school gate.

To keep our community safe, **wearing a mask on the school premises will be compulsory** (unless you are exempt). If you do not wear a mask/do not wear it correctly, you will not be allowed on the premises.

For the sake of our neighbours, please queue along the pavement

- for the Cricket Green entrance: by the Mary Tate Almshouses side, and
- for the Mitcham Park entrance: alongside the Scout Hut/police station side.

Please note: To protect our staff and community at this time there will be limited face-to-face contact with school staff. If you wish to pass on a message or notify about school lunches/alternative collection arrangements this must be done only via email or telephone.

Children who are late to school will need to go to the school office, where a member of staff will sign them in.

Uniform

Full school uniform will be required.

Outdoor PE lessons will recommence from 8th March - indoor PE will resume from 15th March.

<https://www.sspp.merton.sch.uk/school/school-uniform>

Children can wear their PE kits to and from school on their PE days.

Please remember the importance of regular hygiene and wash uniforms accordingly.

For younger children who may be likely to have an accident, you may choose/will be asked to send in a change of clothes/underwear in a plastic bag which can be kept in the new classroom.

Children will not be wearing masks in school - if they use a mask to travel to school parents must remove it at the gate and take it home with them.

What should my child bring to school?

In order to minimise the spread of infection, children should only bring in essentials to school:

- school bag;
- bookbags;
- water bottles (please note water fountains will be out of use);
- lunch boxes;
- stationery;
- mobile phones (Year 5 and 6 only - travelling independently).

Please note:

- If children bring their own packed lunch, the lunch boxes should be thoroughly cleaned each day. Please ensure that your child is able to open the food packaging that you provide. Plastic lunch boxes are preferable.
- Daily fruit deliveries in KS1 will resume.
- Milk services will resume.
- Your child needs a coat depending on the weather.
- Windows in classrooms will be opened to improve ventilation.

What happens if my child is sick or a member of their class show symptoms?

You will be expected to comply with the [NHS Test and Trace](#) approach and adhere to guidance regarding family members and self-isolation periods:

If you test positive, your self-isolation period includes the day your symptoms started (or the day you had the test, if you do not have symptoms) and the next 10 full days. Anyone you live with will also need to self-isolate at the same time. You may need to self-isolate for longer if you get symptoms while self-isolating or your symptoms do not go away.

- **Please ensure that you monitor the health of your child each day.**
- Do not send them to school if they have any of the symptoms of covid-19. Please inform the school and if the symptoms persist, please book a test.
- If, throughout the school day, your child begins to show possible symptoms, you will be telephoned and you will be required to collect your child immediately and book a test for them.
- Your child **cannot** return to school until a test has been returned as negative.
- **You must take the responsibility to monitor the health of your own child.**
- If a member of staff working within the bubble or pupil in your child's bubble tests **positive** you will be advised on the actions to take. This *may* result in the full or partial closure of a bubble, after advice has been sought from Merton's Health Protection Team.

How do I prepare my child to return to school?

- Please remind your child not to touch their face, and to cough/sneeze into their elbow or a tissue, following the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Children will be cleaning their hands multiple times during the school day – let them know this.
- Children will be allowed to bring in a small 30ml bottle of hand sanitiser for their use only (school will provide soap and hand sanitiser).

- Please explain to them that they will be in a bubble and some areas of the school may be off limits e.g they are not allowed within another bubble. They will have designated areas in the playground.
- Children should not hug or touch their friends - we understand how difficult this will be.
- Staff will always try to keep the children apart as much as possible with their own seats and long lines; however, we cannot guarantee social distancing at all times with the recommended 1m+ guidelines.
- Children will be sat in small table groups in their classrooms.
- There will be no whole school gatherings in the hall: assemblies and other such events will be held in bubbles or held virtually.

Please note that parents will not be allowed into the school building: if you need to speak to a member of staff, please email office@sspp.merton.sch.uk or call on 020 8648 1459.

On behalf of the staff, I am really looking forward to welcoming your children back into full schooling once again. Let us make sure that we all work together to help reduce the spread of infection so as to avoid any further closures to schools.

With thanks,

Mr D Hennessey
Headteacher