



St Thomas of Canterbury
RC Primary School

Our Reconnection Plan
March 2021

Welcome back!

Throughout January and February, we have remained open to our Key worker and vulnerable children bubbles. For the majority of our children they have had to learn remotely. We cannot wait to have everyone back. During this period, we have loaned over 80 devices and WIFI hubs to families to ensure that all children were able to access their learning. Where that was not possible home learning packs were provided. We want to thank you for all your hard work, supporting your children throughout this time.

We have updated this guidance to help you with your child's return to school. We have worked with the Local Authority and the Department of Education to plan for reopening in a safe way, where children can return to school, reconnect with their friends and teachers and their learning. The children and the staff's safety and welfare will be at the centre of all we do and if we have to make changes at short notice to do so then we will.

Please take time to read this guidance and do not hesitate to get in touch if you need any further clarity.

Keeping children and staff safe

All schools must comply with health and safety law, which requires them to assess risks and put in place proportionate control measures. Essential measures include:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- Asymptomatic testing of staff and families who wish to participate
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-for-staff-in-primary-schools-and-nurseries/rapid-asymptomatic-coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-staff-in-primary-schools-school-based-nurseries-and-maintained-nursery-schools>

All schools have been provided with a set of actions to 'prevent' and 'respond to infection' which are summarised below:

Prevention:

- minimise contact with individuals who are unwell
- clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual
- ensure good respiratory hygiene - 'catch it, bin it, kill it'
- enhanced cleaning
- minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible
- where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- staff provided with Lateral Flow Tests twice weekly

Response to any infection:

- engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community
- contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice



Face Coverings

The government is not recommending universal use of face coverings in primary schools. Based on current evidence and the measures that schools are already putting in place, such as the system of controls and consistent bubbles, face coverings will not be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible.

Class and Year Group 'bubbles'

We will group each year group (Nursery, Reception, Y1- 6) into 'bubbles' which will remain consistent and separate from other 'bubbles'.

For the majority of their time in school the children will be in their own class bubble with their own teacher and support staff but at playtimes and lunchtimes they will be separated into year groups that will only have limited contact with other year groups, if any.

This will *'make it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate, and keep that number as small as possible'*.

Attendance

All children will be welcomed back to St Thomas of Canterbury RC Primary School from Monday 8th March (as outlined below) and attendance is mandatory:

We support the government here which notes:

- *parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;*
- *schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence;*
- *the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.*

Before Your Child Leaves Home in The Morning

Please check for any of the following symptoms

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to the sense of smell or taste

If any of these symptoms are evident **do not send them to school and get a test**. Please contact email covid@st-thomasofcanterbury.merton.sch.uk

Government advice must be followed, it can be [found here](#).

Drop off and collection

We will continue to have staggered start and finish times. It is important that we do not have parents congregating at the school gates and that we limit the number of interactions across bubbles.

We would encourage only 1 parent/adult to drop off and collect to help minimise the number of adults on site.

Parents will not be allowed on the school site in the mornings and we are encouraging a kiss and drop approach at the gate. There will be lots of familiar staff to welcome the children and guide them to their classrooms.

Children in years 5 and 6 can come to school and go home alone if you provide the school office and class teacher a letter with your permission.

Drop Off and Collection Times

Year Group	Entrance Gate	Arrival Time	Dismissal Time
Nursery	Early Years Unit	AM -8:45am PM – 12:30	AM - 11:45am PM - 3:30PM
Reception	Early Years Unit	8.50am	3:00pm
1	Main School Gate – Baker Lane	8:40am	3:00pm
2	Main School Gate – Baker Lane	8.50am	3:10pm
3	Kitchen Gate – Baker Lane	8:40am	3:00pm
4	Kitchen Gate – Baker Lane	8:50am	3:10pm
5	Commonside East	8:50am	3:10pm
6	Commonside East	8:40am	3:00pm

Please arrive at specified times and adhere to the social distancing markers. Your children will be met by their class teacher and will be asked to sanitise their hands on entry and remove any face coverings.

We ask that all adults and children over the age of 11 collecting
MUST wear a face covering.

School trips and Educational visits

For the remainder of the Spring term we will not be going on any trips that involve public transport.

Enhanced cleaning regimes

Since lockdown and opening for keyworker children our school has had enhanced cleaning systems in place and has also been regularly deep cleaned. We have adjusted our cleaning rotas with our site team to ensure that much more cleaning goes on during the school day – with particular attention paid to those surfaces that are frequently touched like door handles. We will have the school “fogged” weekly.

After School Clubs

We hope to be able to offer some After School Clubs after the Easter break. Mrs Joyce will send a letter out in the next week. All clubs will be provided within their year group bubble to minimise any contacts.



School office

School offices will remain closed to visitors. Parents should do all they can to ensure that children have all that they need for the day (e.g. packed lunches) at the start of the day and if there is an instance where their child needs to be collected at a different time, they should telephone the school to make arrangements.

If you do need to come into the school site, **this must be by appointment only and you must wear a face covering.**

All communication should be done by telephone or e-mail as far as possible.

Communication

Communication with parents is really important to us. Due to the current restrictions we would request that meetings with members of staff are by prior arrangement only so that social distancing and safety precautions can be put in place. If you would like a phone conversation or a face to face meeting please email office@st-thomascanterbury.merton.sch.uk or telephone the office 0208 648 0868 to support making these arrangements.

School uniform

It is an expectation that all children will wear the approved school uniform. We expect our children to take great pride in their school and this is reflected in the way they dress for school. Children can still wear their winter uniform until Easter break.

All uniform can be purchased from our official supplier School Uniform Direct.
<https://www.schooluniformdirect.co.uk/schools/31/st--thomas-of-canterbury>

PE Days

Your child should
school on their



wear their PE kit to
designated PE day.



Children or staff suspected of having COVID-19

In line with DfE guidance in the case of a
suspected infection the school will:

- engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
We ask that parents and staff inform the school immediately of the outcome of any test;
- manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community. The school will text or e-mail parents with a notification of a confirmed infection including which 'bubble' this may affect. We will not share the names or details of people suspected of having or conformed to have coronavirus;
- contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice. For the avoidance of doubt the new advice says that we 'must send home those people who have been in **close contact** with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 10 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious.



'Close contact' now means:

- face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin);
 - proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual;
 - travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person.
- When a case is suspected in school the child will be immediately isolated from other pupils and staff. Staff supervising these children should also try to ensure they remain two metres away while still aiming to provide the reassurance and care particularly young children will need. Enhanced PPE is available for these staff. The school will contact parents and request they collect their child from the school immediately.
 - We ask that parents whose child has been identified as having a suspected case of COVID-19 should seek immediate medical advice.

The guidance says '*Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test.*'

If no test is undertaken then we expect children to self-isolate according to the Public Health England guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

In the event of a local authority wide we will revert to an enhanced version of the arrangements which were in place during the nationwide lockdown. We will use *googleclassroom* as our learning platform.