

Holy Trinity Church of England Junior School

Bute Road, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 8BZ

Telephone: 020 8647 7496

Email: office@holytrinityjuniorwallington.com

www.holytrinityjuniorwallington.com

Headteacher: Mrs S Gruffydd



**Exemplary education for all, through God's amazing grace
Learning, Integrity, Dignity, Love, Confidence.**

Learning together, as we journey with God in Love, we act with Integrity, treat others with Dignity and grow in Confidence.

Dear Parents and Carers,

2nd March 2021

Full re-opening of the school March 8th

We are all very much looking forward to seeing ALL the children again on March 8th. As we return to a full reopening, we have made some adjustments in order to keep everyone safe as the lockdown continues.

We have reviewed the risks in light of the new strain of COVID, using the government guidance and taking into account what we learnt in the Autumn term about safety measures, staffing, playtimes, learning time, after school club.

As you know, primary schools have many protective measures, the main being good hygiene, ventilation and 'bubbles'. In addition, staff are now testing twice weekly for COVID 19. Of course, there are many other protective measures that the school takes within the bubbles and the building. Primary school children are not expected to wear masks unless there is a medical reason to do so.

As we are still in lockdown and the new strain seems to be more transmissible, we have made some significant changes in order to increase the safety of the school community. To make these changes and seek to work even more safely, we have had to adjust how we utilise staff and how the days begin and end. Please read the following information carefully.

Bubbles within the school

In the Autumn the children were in year group bubbles. This allowed them to play together and to move across the year group classes. Fortunately, our safety measures were effective; we did not have any positive COVID tests that closed bubbles.

Soon into the beginning of the January lockdown, with our key worker and targeted children, we learnt that having year group bubbles can result in having to close the whole year group in the event of a positive COVID test. This is due to the contacts that children and staff have working as a year group.

In order to keep any possible disruption to an absolute minimum, we have moved to CLASS bubbles. This means that classes may now only play with each other (rather than as a year group) and will be guided to the sections on the playground/ field in which they can play. For the vast majority, we will also avoid mixing children across the year groups for boosters/ targeted support. (Where we do still need to do this we will take additional preventative and recording measures.) As per our behaviour policy, it is important that children abide by our safety measures and staff will support them to do so.

Working as a class bubble reduces the possible contacts for children and staff. Whilst very few staff have to move across the bubbles, we have reduced the need to do so as much as possible and the staff who do have to cross bubbles will take additional preventative measures. In order to keep staff movement to a minimum we have had to make some adaptations to our school day so that we can staff the class bubbles in this lockdown.



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Please note the changes to start and end times of the day. Year 3 and 5 have slightly earlier arrival times and all year groups have different end times.

The drop off and collection routines of the children remain the same as the Autumn term. **ALL ADULTS must wear a mask whilst on school property and remain 2m from each other.** If you wish your child to walk home rather than be collected by an adult, you must give written permission via the office.

Please note the start and end times of the day				
	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Arrive to school	8.50- 9.00	8.40- 8.50	8.50- 9.00	8.40- 8.50
Lunch time	12.00- 12.45	12.50- 1.35	12.00- 12.45	12.50- 1.35
Home time	3.10	3.05	3.10	3.00

NB we have noted the times for the end of day at Beddington Infants and have planned that these times will work with their pickup times, which begin at 3.05 pm and end at 3.25pm. If you have questions or concerns about the times, please let us know via the office email.

We have reduced the lunch hour to support the safety measures we have in place and to ensure safe staffing for the class bubbles. Playtimes during the school day have also been adjusted, based on how children responded to the length or frequency of breaks in the autumn term. NB Children have not lost any teaching time in the day. The end of the school day has also been adjusted to ensure staffing requirements across the week.

Breakfast Club and After School Club

These clubs will continue to run and **MUST** be booked and paid for in advance. After school club will run **until 5.30p.m.** daily.

Year group bubbles will be kept separate and we will endeavour as much as possible to keep children playing together within their class bubble. However, in the event of a positive COVID test, parents must be aware that there is an additional risk of their child being identified as a direct contact, and needing to isolate, if attending the clubs.

At this point, we will not be offering any other after school clubs until we have reviewed the risk assessment and the safety of all our community.

Uniform

Children should attend school in their full school uniform. Most online stores are well stocked with the staple uniform. If you are not able to equip your child with full uniform from March 8th please email the school office.

On PE days your child must attend school in school PE kit. **Please note, this is plain black track suit/ shorts and white or red T-shirts. Children can either wear their school jumper/ cardigan or a plain black jumper (no hoodies) on PE days. We will send separate information about PE days later this week.**

Additional footwear/ being prepared for all weathers

Spring weather is unpredictable **and we aim to play outside every day**, so please ensure your child has a coat that will protect them from wind/ showers. Due to the separate bubbles, we will use the school field as a playground so children all have a large safe place to play. We know that this can get very muddy so therefore ask that **all children have a second pair of shoes/ trainers in school that they can wear on the field.** Please make sure your child's trainers are named and are brought to school in a named plastic bag. The shoes can be left in school.

Children will have a week playing on the playground and a week on the field. It will be a rota so that all classes are able to take turns using the equipment within the segmented thirds.

Equipment

We will provide children with the class equipment they need so please do NOT send your child to school with a pencil case. Each child MUST have a named water bottle. It would be helpful if they bring in their own small bottle of hand sanitiser.

Chrome books

Please return all loaned chrome books on the 8th March. Children will continue to take home reading books and we will quarantine them before redistributing.

We will write to you about the plans for the new chrome books when all other chrome books have been returned. We would like to do this swiftly, so please ensure that all chrome books are returned next week.

Thank you to those who responded to our request to give us more information about your child during lockdown. It is very understandable that children may have some anxiety about the return to school, for one reason or another. Please be assured that wellbeing is a priority and staff will begin to discuss the plans with the children when they see them on Google Meets this week in order to make them as comfortable and forward looking as possible.

Where necessary, staff may also contact families separately to make plans for individual children where more support may be arranged to facilitate a great re-integration back to a school of children.

Once again, thank you for your support as we continue to plan to keep everyone as safe as we can.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs Gruffydd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mrs Robins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Mrs Gruffydd and Mrs Robins