

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



9th June 2020

Dear Parent/carer

We are writing to you with some important information to support your child with their learning for the remainder of this term. As you are probably aware schools were asked by the government to plan for a return to school for primary pupils this half term and for some face to face sessions with year 10 pupils from Monday 15th June. Over the last few days it has been fabulous to have Year 1 and Year 6 pupils on site and we are now in a position to widen our offer to the other year groups identified by the government.

We have spent time carrying out detailed risk assessments to assess our ability to open safely to pupils and staff. We have been cautious in our approach to wider reopening but do believe we are now in a strong position to welcome back year 10 pupils.

So to our plans. Firstly the return to learning at school won't be quite as it was prior to closing in March as we are only allowed to have a quarter of year 10 pupils on site on any particular day. For the first three weeks children will be placed in groups of 10 and, as far as possible, they will stay in this group (or 'bubble' as we're calling it) in one classroom, with two teachers. They will attend school once a week for a 3 hour session and 'bubbles' of children will have staggered start and finish times to minimise contact with other pupils. We know you will have many questions regarding these arrangements so we have tried to provide answers to some of them on the following pages.

Getting your child back to school safely is our biggest priority. Please rest assured that we have taken every measure to prepare the school for their safe return. **Now we just need them here!** Please support us in ensuring your child attends school at the times and dates detailed at the foot of this letter. Our analysis has shown that engagement in remote learning for Year 10 is significantly lower than we would have hoped, therefore it is vital they return to school next week to begin developing strong learning habits to prepare them for Year 11.

If you foresee any issues at all or have any worries about your child returning to school please raise them with your child's Form Tutor or Miss Dunne immediately so that we can work with you to remove any barriers to your child returning to school.

When not at school we would expect your child to continue working to the home learning schedule which is posted below. It is vital that they are up and working by **10am every day** and are completing the tasks set by their class teachers in **every subject area**.

Day	9:55-10:00	P1: 10.00 - 11:00	P2: 11:00 - 12:00	P3: 1:00 - 2:00	P4: 2:00 - 3:00
Monday	Morning reflection emailed to all pupils every day by RWA and upload to twitter by MCA	Option A	Maths	English	Year led PSHCE/House comps
Tuesday		RE	Science	Option C	Maths
Wednesday		Option B	RE	Science	Option A
Thursday		Science	English	Option B	RE
Friday		Maths	Option C	English	Early finish

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This week staff have been making calls home to inform you of our plans. Please check the details overleaf to make sure you and your child are really clear on the times and dates they are expected in school.

We simply cannot wait to have our Year 10's back in school working hard and flexing those learning muscles to prepare them for their GCSE exams next summer. Thank you in advance for your support in ensuring your child attends school as outlined below. We look forward to seeing them next week.

We will write to you again soon with the plans for the final two weeks of the summer term.

Yours sincerely,

Ms M Baldwin
Headteacher

Name	Student name
Bubble	
Day in School	
Dates in school	
Start time	
Finish time	

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What is a SMA Year 10 bubble?

- Up to 10 children in a bubble with two familiar class teachers. Adults and children will stay in this bubble all day, in their specified area of the school and will be supported by two senior staff
- Bubbles will be made up of a balance of boys and girls, additional needs etc. Bubbles are fixed.
- Children will work in a well ventilated computer room – they will be spread out in the room and have access to a computer and a desk space
- Pupils should arrive with all equipment and books they need for the day
- Bags, coats etc. should be kept to a minimum and will be stored outside classrooms
- Each pupil in the bubble will receive a weekly one to one 20 minute wellbeing conversation during their session
- Targets will be set during 1:1 meetings outlining clear tasks to complete on Google Classroom prior to the next school session
- Snacks will be provided so pupils should not bring any food on site
- Pupils will be able to wear non-uniform but must ensure they are dressed appropriately for a day at school
- Pupils will receive a 'wake-up' phone call on their allocated morning at 9am from the staff leading that day
- During the 3 hour work slot pupils will be supported in completing tasks set on Google Classroom by their class teacher in Maths, Science & English

Will my child be socially distanced 100% of the time?

Children and adults will be socially-distanced as soon as they arrive on site and in the classroom. Adults in school will not be routinely wearing face coverings so pupils must ensure they socially distance from the teacher, and other adults. If your child needs medical attention that will be dealt with in the usual way, i.e. not socially distanced. The focus is on:

- Minimising contact and not mixing between bubbles
- Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- Frequent hand washing and good respiratory practices
- Frequent, thorough cleaning of settings

When will my Year 10 child come to school

- Each year 10 pupil will initially attend for one day per week
- Your child should attend school on the day/time stated on the gold card
- There will be a staggered start for pupils to enable them to travel safely to the Academy avoiding the peak rush-hour traffic
- Please ensure your child travels to school alone and does not meet up with friends on the way to school
- All pupils will sanitize their hands on entering the gate and SLT will ensure that all social distancing stipulations are adhered to
- Your child will be dismissed at the time stated on the gold card
- We will provide you with guidance for learning for the Friday when your child isn't in school.

As a parent how can I help?

- Take your child's temperature before you come to school; we will only take temperatures if we have a concern
- If your child is at all unwell, or has a temperature above 37.8°C keep them at home.
- Ensure your child has washed their hands before leaving in the morning and on arriving home
- Ensure your child is on time for the staggered start to the day
- If you are bringing your child to school please drop and go, and do not stop and chat outside the gates. At pick up time please be prompt but socially distance while waiting
- Send any messages for teachers via the school office phone number/email rather than when picking up your child – the reception will not be open to parents

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What will the Academy do if there is a suspected COVID-19 case?

- We have a separate isolation room (not the medical room) which will only be used for suspected cases
- The child will be supervised by an adult who will wear PPE equipment
- The parent will be called to come and collect the child
- The child will be given a face covering to wear (to protect others) when they leave the building to be collected by their parents

What happens if there is a confirmed case?

- The child/staff member would self isolate for 7 days, with rest of household isolating for 14 days. Any child or member of staff who displays symptoms will be encouraged to be tested for COVID-19.
- Where the child/staff member tests negative, they can return to school. Where the test is positive, the rest of the 'bubble' will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.
- Household members of the bubble do not need to self-isolate unless the child/staff member subsequently develops symptoms.

What should I do if my family are shielding or extremely clinically vulnerable?

- Children classed as extremely clinically vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions are not expected to return to school. Those classed as clinically vulnerable should follow medical advice as to whether a return to school at this time is advisable. If your child lives with an extremely clinically vulnerable adult then they should only attend 'if stringent social distancing can be adhered to'. As a school we cannot guarantee that, therefore your child will need to stay at home.

Do you or your child need someone to talk to?

- In this unusual situation, you may no longer have your usual support group around you. If you, or your child, would like a friendly voice on the end of the phone, help on how to cope with the current situation, one-off crisis counselling support or a combination of all three, please contact us. If you would like to access this support, please ring the office and leave a message for Mrs Laker or email dla@stmatthewacademy.org.uk

Safeguarding

- Our key priority is always the care and safeguarding of children. We are in regular contact with many families and pupils but, if you have a non-urgent safeguarding issue, please email dla@stmatthewacademy.org.uk. If something is urgent, you can contact MASH (multi-agency safeguarding hub) on 020 8314 6660 or the police on 999.

Government and Local Authority documents

Please find below links to documents that you may wish to read to further inform your decision.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for schools and other educational settings](#)

[What parents and carers need to know about schools and other education settings during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

[Actions for educational and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020](#)

[Information about schools and childcare during COVID-19](#)

Travel advice from Transport for London can be found [here](#)

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