

St. Thomas a Becket Nursery School
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Registered Charity No. 1097448

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,



Well, following that incredibly challenging end to the last school year, hasn't summer gone quickly? We can't wait to come back to nursery and see those of you who are returning, we wonder how much you have grown since we last saw you... We also are very much looking forwards to meeting all of our new children and getting to know you all. During the holidays the nursery has been painted so will look sparkling and fresh. A thorough deep clean in August has completed our summer make over for the inside of the nursery and ensured that we are ready for the year ahead.

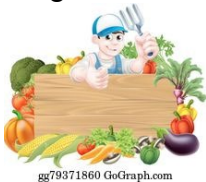
Unfortunately, Lisa (The Nursery Manager) is unwell at the moment and won't be with us when we return. Lisa is currently recovering from a serious operation and, depending on any after treatment needed, may not be back with us for a while yet. Obviously we will miss her lots this term. We are sending her our love and very much keeping her in our prayers for a speedy recovery. Please do the same too if you are able.



In the meantime, Amy is very excited to be starting the new school year as our Nursery Deputy and Julie as our SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities) Co-Ordinator. Both ladies are the obvious and natural successors for these important positions and this is shown in their dedication to have still been working hard over their summer holidays, channeling their enthusiasm into preparing for the best start back for the children. A special thank you also to Gwen who is the best person ever to have around if you need to de-clutter and to Gwen, her husband and Lisa's husband Allen who have all worked hard over the holidays to take down and put back up shelving and notice boards etc for the redecoration. A big thank you also to Chloe and Shameem who have continued with their training and qualifications over the summer period. Yuliya is still on maternity leave and is thoroughly enjoying this very special time with her family. What a fantastic team we have, we are so lucky.



We also have taken on an allotment which over the next couple of months is being weed killer treated and having growing beds built. We are having fully accessible paths and planters of varying heights included in the layout so all little ones and parents/ carers can come and learn to grow, whatever mobility requirements they may have. There will also be a large grassy area for general playing, and once we have raised some funds, an outdoor classroom structure will be added so we can visit the allotment, whatever the weather. Amy and Gwen are also keen to improve on our outdoor mud kitchen area so watch this lovely muddy space for lots more fun activities and learning opportunities.



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Please see overleaf for important messages for managing our safe September return.

Returning to Nursery

As per the latest government guidance, the following points have been noted to place a range of protective measures in place. These will help reduce and manage the risks of transmission of COVID-19 for our Nursery September 2020 start.

Our Risk Assessment is regularly monitored and updated.

Nursery Group Sizes

Nursery is able to return to its normal (Ofsted registered) group sizes (from 20th July).

The overarching principle is to still reduce the number of contacts between children and staff therefore, we will continue to use our tried and trusted age related room end system to help to keep our activity delivery and resources to smaller separate groups, thus limiting risk to our children. Staff will consistently keep to their nursery room ends and children, maintaining distance between each other, thus supporting limited contact between age related groups.

The NHS Test and Trace system

Maintaining our distinct age groups will enable us to identify those who may need to self-isolate should a case of COVID-19 be identified, and keep the numbers needing to self-isolate to a minimum.

The NHS Test and Trace system: Playing your part:

- If you develop symptoms, you must self-isolate with other members of your household and get a test to find out if you have coronavirus;
- If you test positive for coronavirus, you must share information promptly about your recent contacts through the NHS Test and Trace service to help us alert other people who may need to self-isolate;
- If you have had close recent contact with someone who has coronavirus, you must self-isolate if the NHS Test and Trace service advises you to do so;
- If you are returning from travel abroad it is important to check whether you need to self-isolate

Please refer to any latest Government updates regarding countries identified for self-isolation needs on return to England.

Shielding (advice paused from 1 August).

Children can return to nursery if they:

- are on the shielded patient list
- have family members who are shielding

Self Isolating

A small number of children may be unable to attend (public health advice) because they:

- are self-isolating
- have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)

Face Coverings

Based on current evidence, Public Health England **DOES NOT** recommend the use of face coverings in nurseries (except in some specific circumstances).

This is because:

- children, young people and staff are mixing in consistent groups
- not using them correctly may accidentally increase the risk of transmitting the virus
- there may be negative effects on communications and therefore on your child's education

The government are keeping guidance on face coverings under review and nursery will react accordingly should the guidance change.

Nursery will:

- manage nursery confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in line with current public health guidance - this means your child may be asked to self-isolate for 14 days by us (based on advice from our local health protection team) if any child or adult has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus;
- ensure that we all clean our hands more often than usual, including when children arrive, at mid points during the morning and afternoon sessions and before and after eating – hands will be washed for 20 seconds with soap and running water;
- promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach, to ensure good respiratory hygiene;
- enhance cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often.

Start of Term Monday 7th September.

Arriving and Leaving Nursery

The Nursery is situated on the school site, therefore, minimising risk at drop off and pick up times must lie in accordance with the school's identified measures to risk manage.

It is vitally important that all visitors to the school **maintain a 2 metre social distance** (except household groups). We encourage you to cycle/walk to nursery where possible and avoid parking near the school, especially down Tutts Barn Lane or Gorringe Road.

-Only one adult should accompany their child(ren) onto the school/nursery grounds. **Children and the accompanying adult should not arrive before their allotted times or leave the site later than these.** This is to reduce numbers of people entering and leaving the site for social distancing purposes and robust infection control. Adults will **not** be able to enter the nursery.

Arriving at and Leaving the School Grounds – One Way System:

Nursery Children aged 2-3 years old with siblings at the school should be dropped off immediately prior to taking the older child to their classroom at the school allocated time.

Children with no school sibling - Start Time 9.05am : Pick Up Time 2.35pm

Please enter through the school pedestrian gate and follow the yellow and blue dot one-way system towards the outside of the KS1 building. You will pass through the nursery green gate to enter the 2-3 year old outside play area through the wooden gate. Drop off and collect your child from the garden door entrance of your nursery room end, maintaining a 2 metre social distance, and then promptly leave the school grounds via the emergency exit garden gate onto the school drive, following the blue dots and through the vehicle gate.

Nursery Children aged 3-4 years old with siblings at the school should be dropped off immediately prior to taking the older child to their classroom at the school allocated time.

Children with no school sibling - Start Time 9.00am : Pick Up Time 2.40pm

Please enter through the school pedestrian gate and follow the yellow and blue dot one-way system towards the outside of the KS1 building. You will pass through the nursery green gate to enter the 3-4 year old outside play area through the wooden gate. Drop off and collect your child from the garden door entrance of your nursery room end, maintaining a 2 metre social distance, and then promptly leave the school grounds via the high green garden gate onto the school drive, following the blue dots and through the vehicle gate.

-Please **do not** stop to gather in a group at any point on or outside the school grounds.
-Please **do not** use the entrance to the school as a drop off/turn around point as this is used as the main pedestrian exit to the school and nursery.

**Please take your child's temperature
before coming to nursery.**

**Should your child or any of your household show
any symptoms of COVID-19:**

**Continuous new cough /
High temperature /
Loss of smell or taste**

PLEASE DO NOT COME INTO NURSERY

Early Birds

St Thomas a Becket Nursery usually run an Early Bird club for working parents. Under the current guidelines and safe delivery of childcare amendments to our ways of working this is more of a logistical challenge to deliver. However, should the pick-up and drop-off time slots present an insurmountable challenge for your return to work, please do speak to us. We will review the potential to deliver the Early Bird service to all nursery families once we have fully settled back in.

If you have concerns about your child returning to nursery because you consider they may any risk factors, you should discuss these with us.

Thank you so very much for your continued patience, understanding and your cooperation in the need to work with us to best ensure the safety of all in these difficult times.

With all good wishes, *Clare Harrison*, Nursery Lead, St Thomas a Becket Nursery