

**St John's Surgery
16 St John's Street
Kempston
Bedford
MK42 8EP**

**King Street Surgery
273 Bedford Road
Kempston
Bedford
MK42 8QD**

To the patients of King Street Surgery and St John's Surgery

Date As Postmark

Dear Household

King Street Surgery and St John's Surgery will merge on 1st April 2021.

I am writing to you as a patient or householder who is registered with our practice to share the news that King Street Surgery and St John's Surgery will merge from 1 April 2021. The merger was formally approved by NHS England after consultation with patients and with local borough and NHS authorities.

What does this mean?

You will still be able to access services across the three sites: St John's Street, King Street, and Cater Street.

All the existing practice telephone numbers will continue. If you are currently registered with St John's Surgery, please continue to telephone them directly as you do now. By the summer we hope to have a new unified phone system in place with one central number.

All the healthcare staff in place before April remain in place after April and our aim is to continue to develop and expand the team. Recent additions to our team includes doctors, physician associates, clinical pharmacists and first contact physiotherapists.

One of the early changes you will see is the Cater Street site developing as a hub for maternal and child health, becoming the base for midwife appointments and childhood Immunisations.

We believe the merger of the Kempston practices provides the most resilient, stable, and effective way of ensuring high quality care to our patients. You will benefit from a larger team working together to maintain and improve the quality of care; an arrangement that also creates a better opportunity for staff development, retention, and recruitment.

The merger will bring many benefits to our patients and to us as your healthcare provider. It will enable us to share our resources, so that patients have access to a greater number of medical staff and a wider range of services; we will also be able to work together to improve our administrative and office functions.

Our GP partners and staff are looking forward to being part of a larger team. It will help us to maintain and improve the care we provide as we manage the pressures of General Practice and will give us access to more opportunities in the future; we are particularly keen to explore the possibility of finding new and improved premises in the future. By merging the Kempston practices into one list we place ourselves in a stronger position to influence the local NHS and borough authorities in our ambition to develop a new health and well-being centre for the population of Kempston and the surrounding areas.

We are grateful to the many patients who responded to our survey. You will find the results of the survey on the website

Kind regards

The Partners and Senior Management of St John's and King Street Surgeries