



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
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Monday 20th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

Whole school reopening – September 2020

We are looking forward to welcoming back St Joseph's school pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 on Monday 7th September. Our new Reception entrants will start full time school on Thursday 10th September.

In compliance with Health and Safety law, which requires all schools to assess risks and put in place proportionate control measures, we are in the process of thoroughly reviewing our health and safety risk assessments and the 'School Opening Action Plan' for the Autumn Term. All protective measures put in place by the school will follow the Government's 'Guidance for Full Opening: Schools' document that can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#A>

Our school risk assessment will be published on our school website later this week. A parent version of the school's risk assessment will be sent to all families to clarify what our protective measures look like on a practical school day-level for yourself and your child; it details information such as changes to timings for arrival at school, lunchtimes etc. However, both are subject to change in line with any Government changes before the beginning of the new school year. It is essential to note here that, whilst we cannot be risk free, if everyone does their part, we can minimise risk and therefore aim to prevent a return to school closure or local lockdown.

If staff or children develop symptoms whilst at school, they will be sent home immediately and you will be supported to have your child tested for Covid-19 and given instructions of how the family should isolate to reduce the risk of spreading the infection. If your child or a household member develops symptoms at home, please do not send your child to school. Please contact us, and we will support you with what to do next. Rapid action, based on advice from our local health protection team, will take place should any test come back positive, to ensure that the school continues to be a safe environment.

These are challenging times and we are very aware children may find coming back to school after a long break difficult and an adjustment. We will be focusing on their wellbeing, with an aim to nurturing their return to school to make it as easy as possible for them, ensuring all children get back in to learning as smoothly as possible. We understand that the last five months have been challenging, and we want our personal,

social and health education to fully support our children. Therefore, we are sending home a Google form to help us understand your child's lockdown experience. Please complete this form to ensure that we can support them as best as possible when they return in September.

Breakfast and After School Club

I am delighted to confirm we aim to open our wraparound provision on Monday 7th September. I urge you to only access this provision if you need to. Both Breakfast Club and After School Club will operate in the school hall. Provision will be restricted, and to avoid mixing the children during this provision, pupils will remain in their classroom bubbles, socially distanced from each other.

This provision will have its own risk assessment. This will be posted on our school website before the beginning of next term.

Attendance

The government has stated that attendance will be mandatory for all children and, therefore, all children should return to school. For parents and carers of children of compulsory school age, this means that the legal duty on you as a parent to send your child to school regularly will apply.

Please ensure you ring the school office before 9.30am if your child will be absent. A small number of pupils will be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19). If your child is unable to attend school for this reason, you should contact school and advice will be given about what support is available in terms of remote education.

Communication between teachers and parents

Please understand that most communication from parents to staff needs to be via Class Dojo, email or phone call to the school office. We cannot have chats before or after school, to ensure that the flow of human traffic and social distancing can be maintained.

Over the last four months we have been closed to most pupils, moved from class teaching to home learning, run childcare provision, welcomed back some year groups with protective measures, and on the whole it has all gone smoothly! I am confident that we can be up and running as near normal as possible in September. It may take a while for new systems to settle down, but I know that if we are kind and patient with each other we will be able to ensure a happy and successful return for all of our pupils. We are really looking forward to welcoming you back. Please do contact the school if you have any questions or concerns, we will be happy to help.

Very best wishes,

Kelly Dunne
Headteacher