



ST JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Information for the wider opening of St Joseph's on March 8th 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement last week, I am now able to confirm that St Joseph's school will reopen to all children on Monday 8th March. Since January 5th staff have worked exceptionally hard to teach children both in school and at home. I must thank them for their hard work and resilience. Children and parents have faced the challenges presented by home schooling and I must thank you for your support and kind comments, as well as the scones, biscuits and cakes!

I look forward to welcoming back all of our children, it has been a very difficult time for them and we are ready to support them as they return to school after a very abrupt closure in January.

COVID-19 still presents still significant risks so I have set out the protective measures we have in place to help ensure St Joseph's is as safe as possible. These measures are developed around Government guidance and will be updated if changes are advised.

Attendance

From Monday 8th March, school attendance will be mandatory again. This means that the legal duty on parents of children of compulsory school age will apply. It is vital that children return to school for their educational progress, wellbeing and wider development.

Precautions

We will continue to take precautions in line with DFE guidance such as:

- ensuring everyone at the school cleans their hands more often than usual
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene, by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often
- minimising contact and maintaining distance where possible

Virus Transmission and Infection

Pupils must *not* come into the school if:

- they have one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms

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Headteacher: Mrs A Toward

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- they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area
- they have had a positive test

Pupil illness

IF IN DOUBT DO NOT SEND.

If your child becomes unwell at school, you will be asked to collect them immediately. We therefore need you to be contactable at all times. Your child will be kept in isolation with a member of staff while we wait for your arrival – you may drive into the school car park and should use the disabled entrance to collect your child.

If coronavirus is suspected, the staff member will be wearing a disposable apron, gloves and mask. You will then be advised to arrange a test for your child.

Arriving and leaving school arrangements.

To avoid large numbers of pupils and parents gathering, the start and end of the school day will be staggered for different year groups, as shown in the timetable below.

Year Group	Drop off time	Where
Little Joeys	8.30- 8.45am	Classrooms Enter via side gate and exit via FS gate.
FS1 am	8.30- 8.45am	
FS1 pm	12.15pm	FS gate
FS2	8.30- 8.45am	Classroom Enter via side gate and exit via FS gate.
Y1	8.30- 8.45am	Y1 classroom. Enter Y1 gate.

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Y2	8.30- 8.45am	Classrooms Enter via side gate and exit via FS gate.
Y3	8.30- 8.45am	
Y4	8.30- 8.45am	
Y5	8.30- 8.45am	
Y6	8.30- 8.45am	

Year Group	Collection time	Where
Little Joeys	11.35am	FS gate
FS1 am	11.35am	FS gate
FS1 pm	3.15pm	Classrooms Enter via side gate and exit via FS gate.
FS2	3.15pm	
Y1	3.15pm	Y1 classroom. Enter Y1 gate. Y1 children who have siblings should be collected from Y2.
Y2	3.05pm	Classrooms Enter via side gate and exit via FS gate.
Y3	3.15pm	
Y4	3.05pm	

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Y5	3.15pm	
Y6	3.05pm	
Siblings can be collected together at the earlier time. Stand near classroom windows so that school staff can see you.		

Parents are asked to take children to classrooms where they will be met at the doors by school staff. Unfortunately, parents are not allowed into classrooms or cloakroom pods.

Any parents or carers with significant mobility issues are asked to contact the school office if individual arrangements need to be made.

Parents must observe social distancing measures when dropping children off and collecting them.

Only one parent/adult should drop and collect their child. Children must be collected by a designated adult and are not permitted to go home with other families (unless we have been notified of a childcare bubble. Children cannot be part of different bubbles). Without this measure, there is an increased risk of social contact outside of school.

Children should not touch or use outdoor equipment

Please leave the school promptly and do not linger to talk to others - even if at a safe distance.

Parents and carers are requested to wear face coverings when dropping off and collecting children.

One Way System

From Monday there will be a one-way system which will operate at drop off and collection times. Children will enter the school site through the gate near our school garage but parents/children should exit through the FS gate. This helps to ensure social distancing.

Breakfast Club

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School is open from 7.30am. Places must be booked in advance via Parent Pay.

After School Clubs

Until Easter, after school clubs will run each Tues, Wed and Thurs until 4.30pm. More details on this week's newsletter. Places need to be booked in advance via Parent Pay.

Wraparound/30 Hours

This provision is open. Parents of children not eligible for 30 hours, should book places in advance via Parent Pay.

Organisation of Children in school

We will regroup children in year groups into 'bubbles' which will remain consistent and separate from other 'bubbles'. It has been decided that the school will operate four larger phase bubbles across the school. One for the EYFS classes (Little Joeys, FS1 and FS2), one for Year 1 and 2, one for Year 3 & 4 and one for Year 5 & 6. For the majority of their time in school the children will be with their own teacher and support staff but at playtimes and lunchtimes they will be separated into phase bubble groups that will only have limited contact with one other year group outside.

KS1 and KS2 classrooms will continue to be set out so that all children face the front. Tables will be set out in rows. Windows will be open and internal doors will also be left open to ensure that rooms are well ventilated.

Curriculum

We will continue to provide an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects to support the needs of our pupils and address the gaps as a result of lost learning time. Children will be assessed upon their return to school and staff will set about identifying gaps in learning.

Mental health and well being

We know that children will need a lot of support from next week. We are lucky to have Mrs Mead, who provides in school counselling to children.

Reading Books

Reading books will be sent home on a daily basis. When the books are returned they will be 'quarantined' for a period of time.

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Safety and handwashing

Staff and pupils are well used to what is required for preventative hygiene and have been following Government advice since last March.

Children will be encouraged to wash their hands more frequently using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Instructions are displayed within all toilet rooms.

Pupils will wash hands at the following times:

- On arrival into school
- After break time
- Before lunch or eating
- After lunch
- After going to the toilet
- After using a tissue

Children will be provided with soap and hand wash, this should not be brought into school. Children should avoid touching their face, mouth and nose area and staff will remind children about this regularly.

Respiratory Hygiene

The 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach should be used by all. Each classroom has a lidded bin and used tissues should be placed in these.

Bins will be emptied each lunchtime and at the end of each day.

Posters will be displayed around school to remind children about good hygiene and social distancing.

Movement around the school site

Movement around school will be kept to a minimum. There will be no whole school gatherings of any kind so children will be classroom based for most of the school day.

Break times and lunch times

Breaks will be staggered to enable social distancing. More than one group will be allowed to play outside but only within their designated area. Activities will be limited; for example no football, four square or activities where children are in close proximity. Each class will have their own box of playtime resources which will be cleaned regularly.

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Areas that are out of use

Children will not be able to use the outdoor play equipment including the trim trail, gym equipment and tyre areas.

School Uniform

Children should wear full school uniform upon their return to school. They may bring an additional plain sweatshirt or cardigan to wear on top of uniform as windows in classrooms will be open for ventilation.

Equipment in School

It is still recommended that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day, to essentials such as lunch boxes, hats, coats and books. Bags are allowed. Children can continue to use the pencil cases that they brought into school in Sep[tember]. It should **only** contain the following items: pencil sharpener, coloured pencil set and a ruler. These pencil cases will be staying in school at all times.

PE Kits

Children should wear PE kits on the days they have PE. Find these in class curriculum newsletters on our website.

Water Bottles

Children must bring a full water bottle to school. Bottles should be named and can be purchased from school (£1.50). Children are only allowed to drink water in school.

Catering Arrangements

Lunchtimes will be staggered. Full catering arrangements will be in place.

Behaviour

The usual high expectations for pupils' behaviour continue.

All pupils will be expected to display high standards of behaviour in line with our behaviour policy expectations. Any pupil caught compromising the safety of children or staff will be sanctioned as explained in our COVID behaviour policy addendum which can be found on our website.

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Contact with School

Parents should do all they can to ensure that children have all that they need for the day (e.g. water bottles, reading books) at the start of the day and if there is an emergency meaning that their child needs to be collected at a different time should telephone the school first. All other communication should be done by telephone or e-mail.

Please ensure that we have your most up to date contact details and that you are able to be contacted throughout the day.

Safeguarding

Parents should contact Mrs Toward regarding any safeguarding issues. Updated Safeguarding Posters are displayed in classrooms and around school.

SEND

Parents should arrange a telephone appointment with Miss Wright regarding any SEND (Special Needs) issues or concerns.

School Minibuses

Our new minibuses will operate as usual. Places must have been booked with Mrs Farrier.

And finally.....

I hope this information is useful, should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. I appreciate that Covid-19 provides challenging circumstances and know that you will work with us to make sure everyone is kept as safe as possible. These circumstances won't last forever!

On behalf of my governing body and staff, thank you for your continued support during these unprecedented times.

Mrs A G Toward

Head Teacher

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