



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Marton Road ♦ Middlesbrough ♦ TS4 2NT

HEAD TEACHER
MRS E KING

TELEPHONE & FAX
(01642) 819252

enquiries@stjosephscp.npcat.org.uk

1st June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families are all safe and well and are unaffected as much as possible by the impact of Covid-19.

We realise that this has been a challenging time for all of you, as it has for us also.

We have remained open every day – including school holidays and bank holidays for the children of key workers.

I would like to thank all of the school community for your support and understanding at this testing time. Staff have been fantastic in so many ways and we have received tremendous support and help from the Academy Trust and from governors.

From the recent letter sent to you from Hugh Hegarty, CEO, about the wider opening of schools, I am now in a position to set out further details. It is important that you understand how the school day will look like for your child and the steps we have to take to keep all children and staff safe.

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to government guidance for further details of these groups.

Our plans will obviously have to adapt and change as the situation changes.

Social Distancing Measures

As a school, we are doing all we can to minimise risk and operate a safe learning environment.

School will be different as we have to follow the principles of the guidance from the government and our academy to reduce the risk of the virus spreading.

School Opening Times, Arrival and Pick up Arrangements

The school day will start at 9 am and finish at 3pm.

Parents cannot gather at entrance gates or doors, or enter the school building without pre-arranged consent or appointments.

Parents should only come to the designated area to hand their child over to staff. The playground will be opened and then people will have to socially distance. Parents will be assigned a drop off and pick up time for their child; any parent arriving late should ring the school office and not enter the school grounds. Only one parent/adult should drop and collect their child. If at all possible, other siblings



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should not attend at drop off and pick up times. If there is absolutely no alternative, then they must remain beside their parents. Toddlers should remain in their pushchairs and not be allowed to roam. Please leave the school promptly and do not linger to talk to others - even if at a safe distance.

The adult must wait in the designated area for their child and social distance on the 2m markers clearly taped out on the floor.

Any Year 6 pupil who normally walks to and from school themselves will only be allowed to do so if new written permission is received from a parent via email to enquiries@stjosephscp.npcat.org.uk. Parents should be confident that their child will adhere to social distancing guidelines and not gather with friends outside school. Any Year 6 child who is seen not adhering to this guidance, will be asked to remain at home for seven days.

Children in Breakfast club will have to attend this in their classrooms to reduce contact with children from other classes. **Breakfast Club will only be open for key workers. After School Club will not be open.**

Contact with School

All contact with school is via telephone and email. Please do not visit the office. If you have no alternative only 1 adult at a time will be permitted into the entrance area. All adults will be expected to sanitise their hands and must stand behind the marker. Any parents waiting must line up on the 2 metre distance markers on the floor along the dining room hall windows.

Please adhere to all measures in place, particularly with regard to drop off and pick up times.

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

Organisation of Children in school

Children will be split into much smaller classes known as bubbles. This means of course they may not be with their usual teacher and teaching assistant. In some groups, the teacher will be supported by another teacher or teaching assistant. There will be no whole school gatherings of any kind. They will remain in these new teaching bubbles all day and will not have physical contact with children in the other bubbles. They will remain with the children in their teaching bubble from arrival to departure and this will be the same for lunches and breaks where they will be staggered.

There will be regular hand washing and hand cleaning as you would expect. Sanitisers will be available on entry and exit to the school building. Antibacterial soaps are available in all classrooms and toilets. Children will be directed to wash their hands after every activity/ session. Surfaces will be cleaned regularly by staff with antibacterial wipes and spray.

Classrooms will be altered with desk layouts etc as much as possible to adhere to social distancing. Soft furnishings and small equipment will be removed.



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Pupil toilet areas will be monitored by staff to ensure social distancing is being practiced. Wherever possible we will try to ensure that only one child uses the toilet at a time. However, for young children this can be difficult particularly if they are unable to wait. We do not want any children becoming distressed if they think they won't get to the toilet in time.

School will remain open for key workers from year groups other than Year 6 and Year 1. These children will be based in the Foundation Stage area and kept completely separate to the children in Year 6 and Year 1. They will enter and exit via the Foundation gate.

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 extremely limited; for example no football or activities where children are in close proximity. There will be limited play equipment available if any. The children will have staggered break times and play times so they can play with children in their teaching bubble – they will not have playtime and break time with the other children. It is important that all realise that the children will remain in their new teaching bubbles for all of the school day.

Behaviour

We have had to adapt our current behaviour policy to the current situation. A COVID appendix to the behaviour policy will follow this letter. This will be carefully explained to the pupils on their return to school. Any child putting others at risk will be sent home immediately. This includes consistent refusal to follow social distancing measures and other anti-social behaviour such as spitting - never has this taken on a more sinister possible consequence than at the moment.

Attendance

Normal protocol will be resumed for year groups required back into school. Daily registration will take place for each session that the child is required to attend school and will be in accordance with the timings of the revised school day. It is important that children arrive at school on time. This will allow for the precautionary measures that have been put into place to be effectively managed and with minimal disruption to the child's learning.

Catering arrangements

Initial catering arrangements will be a "grab bag" packed lunch offer from our catering provider, for those pupils who normally receive a free meal or who pay for one. Please inform school if you would like your child to have a school 'grab and go' bag. Our intention is to return to offering a hot meal provision as soon as this can be prepared and delivered in adherence to government guidelines on social distancing.



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Where pupils are currently in receipt of a weekly free school meal voucher under the government scheme these will stop as different year groups return to school on a full time basis. Children will have to have lunch in their classes or outside in their designated play zone.

Use of Equipment

Pupils will not be permitted to share resources. Materials and surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected more frequently in school.

Uniform and items from Home

We expect that all pupils will wear a school uniform. Clothes must be washed daily.

Children must not bring book bags as we are unable to send books home at the moment.

No personal items should be brought to school other than a coat, sun hat and water bottle. Sun cream should be applied **before arriving** at school so there should not then be a need to send sun cream to school. This applies to key worker children too. Any coats and packed lunches will be taken into their classroom and placed under their dedicated space within the classroom.

Learning Provision

Staff are restricted in the range of learning activities that they are able to provide at this time. Staff will of course do their best but this is not going to be school as we know it.

If any child or staff member shows symptoms then they will be sent home immediately and advised to isolate within their household for a minimum of 7 - 14 days.

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. If coronavirus is suspected, the staff member will be wearing a disposable apron, gloves and mask. Any child or staff member with symptoms consistent with coronavirus will need to isolate for seven days and their fellow household members for fourteen days.

Where a staff member or child tests negative for coronavirus, they may return to school and their household members may end their isolation. Where a staff member or child tests positive for coronavirus, the rest of the group (bubble) will be sent home and asked to isolate for fourteen days.



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Year 6 Plans June 8th

There will be 3 teaching bubbles (A, B, and C) with a maximum of 14 pupils in each bubble. Each bubble will have a designated entry/exit point, teaching area, teaching staff, use of toilets and playground zone.

The children will not be taught in the usual Year 6 classrooms. The rooms have been chosen on physical size to ensure the social distancing guidance.

Bubble A: Year 4/ 5 classroom

Bubble B: Year 5 classroom

Bubble C: Year 3 / 4 classroom

Entry and Exit points will be clearly marked.

Group	Entry/ Exit point	Arrival	Breaktime	Hometime
A	Year 4/ 5 door	8.30-8.40	10.15 – 10.30	2.45
B	Usual KS2 door	8.40-8.50	10.30 – 10.45	2.50
C	Year 3/ 4 classroom door	8.50- 9.00	10.45 – 11.00	2.55

Details for Year 1 will follow at a later date.

In order to protect the well-being and safety of our staff and pupils, I must emphasise the need for everyone to follow the social distancing measures as outlined by the government. We will not hesitate to refuse entry to school for any child whose family, including older siblings, are found to be ignoring social distancing rules. I appreciate that you may have other questions. Please just contact the school for further advice. If you do have any urgent questions please speak with us and we will try our very best to answer them.

I would just like to say once again a huge thank you to the many parents who have simply been wonderful at home, as you have given tremendous support to your children at this time. I think at this time routines are crucial as children respond well to routine and structure, but I appreciate that for many parents this is not possible, as you have been working yourself at home. What matters is that you've tried your best and you and your child are safe and well.

Take Care

Mrs King