



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Louise Bury B. Ed
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Archdiocese of
Birmingham

1st April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

'Try to be the rainbow in someone else's cloud'
Maya Angelou

We have reached the end of the Spring term after what can only be described as the most unusual of terms. Your children have blossomed since being back in school and we have loved having them back. They have settled back into school life well and we look forward to the Summer Term with anticipation of after school clubs, school events and the possibility of a Sports Day at last!! For your information we have set the following dates for Sports Day for **KS1 on Wednesday 14th July** and **KS2 on Thursday 15th July**. Timings and details will obviously follow but a date for your diary nevertheless!!

You will have received information regarding our planned virtual parents evening after Easter. Look out for further information in the first week back. If you are worried about anything, you can always email your class teacher.

Important reminders from Worcester Children's First and Public Health, based on recent experiences from the Local Outbreak Response Team (LORT)

- Where parents are ill, planning on taking a COVID-19 test or awaiting a result, children should remain off school until the result is received
- All household mixing must be avoided.

As with other holiday periods, any positive cases where symptoms developed within 2 days of the last day of term must be reported to school.

Please report these cases promptly and avoid household mixing. You must text the school mobile number: 07719 108185. School must be informed of any confirmed positive cases up to and including 7th April. Please include the date when symptoms began and the date of the test. After this, there is no need to inform the school until the point that your child is due to return. Thank you for your ongoing cooperation with this.

You will have been sent an updated leaflet this week on self-isolation. It is important that you read this – hard copies will be available in school and also to access via the website.

Test and Trace Support Payments

On 22nd March, the Department for Education announced that parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a Test and Trace Support Payment or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria.

The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which is administered by district and unitary councils in England, ensures that parents receive the financial support they need if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities.





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You should apply to your council to receive a payment. We are required to provide a letter to all parents or carers of the children advised to self-isolate, to support your application to the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme.

Read guidance on claiming financial support under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme – see link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme-claiming-financial-support/claiming-financial-support-under-the-test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme>

Thank you for continuing to adhere to the face coverings requirement. As I have said, we are all at risk and must prioritise keeping everyone safe. There are still some parents who are not wearing face coverings. Can I remind you that staff will not enter into a conversation with any parent not wearing a face covering unless they have a proof of exemption.

My zoom meetings invitations for Thursday 29th at 4.30pm and Friday 30th April at 9.30am will be sent out to you after Easter. Thank you as ever for your continued understanding and support.

This week we have said goodbye to Mrs Penn as she begins her retirement. She has been at the school for over 30 years and impacted on so many young lives. She will be greatly missed.

A huge thank you goes to Kate Lowe and the Friends for their innovative COVID safe Easter Chocolate raffle. Thank you for your support; £250 was raised. Congratulations to the winners!

On behalf of the staff and Governors, I wish you a happy and joyful Easter with your families. Let us continue to pray for a return to normality to make COVID-19 a memory of the past rather than a concern of the future.

Yours in faith and partnership

Mrs Louise Bury
Headteacher

