



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Louise Bury B. Ed
Chedworth Drive, Warndon, Worcester WR4 9PG
Telephone 01905 452772 - Fax 01905 452772
Email: office@st-josephs-pri.worcs.sch.uk - Website: www.stjosephsworcester.co.uk



13th May 2021

Dear Parents

'If God brings you to it, he will bring you through it'

I do hope that this finds you well and fully back into routines. We are gradually getting back to a form of normality but have still been told to ensure that all of our safe practices are adhered to. Public Health have very clearly stated that we are not in the clear yet and the threat of a further spike is possible. There are still lots of parents not wearing face coverings especially at the back gate. I know restrictions are lessening but it makes it difficult for staff to feel comfortable speaking to a parent about their child. There are COVID Monitoring Officers around the city monitoring this, please don't put yourself or our staff at risk. For those of you who are adhering and consistently wearing face coverings, thank you. We are still in a pandemic situation and must remember that.

Catering

Many of you with children in Key Stage 2 are asking about the return of a hot meal service. This is something that we do want to provide but unfortunately will not happen until September. This is following guidance given where we must continue to adhere to the school food plan in providing a safe food service. We will continue to make the right and safest decisions to ensure that our children can continue to benefit from a good balanced diet whether it be hot or cold service.

The cold service has proved very popular with Key Stage 2 and this service will continue until the end of the school year.

Over the next half term, we will be working on a plan to bring back a full hot service for the whole school in September. This will all depend on the situation and guidance in place but this is our definite plan. The new menu for the summer term will be sent out tomorrow with the school newsletter.

We are very proud to have been able to continue to operate throughout this most challenging time and we feel that this is all down to the strict guidelines that we have kept to across the whole school to ensure safe, healthy and efficient working for all.

Important Changes to Mornings

We have to continue with our staggered starts at present. I am becoming very concerned at the numbers of children being dropped early with older siblings and having to wait in the hall. We have had over 30 children each day, across bubbles, waiting in the hall over the last week. This is a huge increase that is making the situation extremely difficult. I know that this system was introduced to ease the number of parents waiting but it is now becoming a risk due to the vast numbers and different bubbles together in the hall. There is also the issue of supervising these children and out of the kindness of their hearts, my breakfast club staff have stepped in however after monitoring, and consideration of the risks, I have decided that this cannot continue.





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Archdiocese of
Birmingham

From Monday 17th May, all children will need to be dropped at their scheduled time. If this is a problem, we do have a school run Breakfast Club that starts at 8am. The children are given a wholesome breakfast and within their bubbles explore social activities. The atmosphere in the hall is calm and supportive. I would thoroughly recommend it if time is an issue for you. The cost is £2.50 per day, which should be booked in advance and paid online.

I do apologise that this has had to be changed but as explained, it is becoming very difficult. We have worked our way through an extremely challenging year and I have tried my best to support you but now we are journeying to a more normal life, I have to be realistic.

The end of the day however does work better so that will continue for now. The KS2 children are waiting very patiently in their bubbles in the KS1 playground, for their siblings to finish. If your children do wait, please can you remind them that they must not come out of the gate until their sibling is there even if they can see you; they must leave with them. This is in line with our safeguarding procedures. As long as the numbers don't vastly increase, we will be ok to continue with this system for the staggered end of the school day.

Parents Evenings

Thank you to those of you who responded to our survey. Your responses have been extremely valuable to us in future planning of parent consultations. If you were unable to access the survey and would like to share any feedback then please email your class teacher or the school office with your responses.

I look forward to seeing you at my Zoom meeting tomorrow at 9.30am. Do come with your comments and questions. Thank you as ever for your continued understanding and support.

We must continue to work together and keep our country on the roadmap to normality.

Yours in faith and partnership

Mrs Louise Bury

Headteacher

