



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



Archdiocese of
Birmingham

22nd October 2020

Dear parents

“We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we’re curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.”

What a challenging half term we have had here at St Joseph’s but we have survived and are continuing to do the best we can for you and your children.

Thank you to those of you who took part in the recent survey about your experiences during lockdown. You worked at home with your children for six months and when they returned to school in September, you knew your children’s achievements and anxieties much more than we did. Now we are drawing close to the end of the first half term, we have been able to assess where all of the children are but also to talk to them and from this, adapt our provision across the school to meet their needs. We are gathering a clearer picture of where our priorities must lie for 2020-2021.

Our focus continues to be on well-being within our learning and on progress, not just academically but socially and emotionally. Many of your comments have been so helpful and I know that the class email system has strengthened your communication with the class teacher at this time.

We have been planning how we can share with you how your child has settled in and feedback to you. This is something we could normally do easily after school and at a parents evening. During the Autumn term we normally provide a parents evening for you to talk to the class teacher about all of these important issues and now more than ever, you need to know how well your child has settled back into school life.

Our plan for a covid safe ‘parents consultation’...

Your teacher will send a simple progress update on Wednesday 18th November. This will outline next steps for your child and any specific targets that they have. It will also summarise how they have settled in, their readiness to learn and any behaviour issues. If you still require further correspondence then you must email the class teacher for a follow up conversation. This will be detailed to you after half term. We hope that this will be a successful way of us keeping you in touch with your child’s progress. As I have already mentioned the class email is always there for you to use at any time to converse with your child’s teacher. Staff do pick these up although they may not respond to emails sent over the weekend until the Monday morning.

Remote Learning

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, we are continuing to work in developing a clear system of remote learning for you and your child. In the case of your child having to self-isolate or a complete lockdown, work will be set through the website. We are exploring further learning platforms at present and will keep you fully informed of this. Our most important focus is maintaining quality learning and providing opportunities for feedback. This will be a key topic of conversation during my zoom meeting tomorrow 23rd October. Invitations for this have been sent out to you – if you are unable to attend but have questions then please





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email either your class teacher or the office and I will endeavour to answer them. The main advice to you at this stage is that learning for your children will always be available and in the event of a lockdown, long term curriculum learning provision will be in place.

We have reached half term and for all of us, the worries and anxieties associated with Covid-19 will continue but we must stay positive and find time to take stock and be grateful for what we have. We look forward to welcoming you all back on 2nd November.

Any important messages over the half term break will be on the website and sent to you via text so please do stay alert for this. There will be a newsletter out tomorrow with all important updates for you. **Should your child develop Covid symptoms during half term, please would you send a text to the following number, 07719 108185 stating your child's name, year group and the date symptoms began. This also applies to any positive test results and the need to self-isolate. Any questions please email the school office tomorrow.**

All this leaves me to say is: 'sometimes we stare so long at a door that we see too late the one that is open'

Yours in faith and partnership

Mrs Louise Bury
Headteacher

