



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Louise Bury B. Ed
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Archdiocese of
Birmingham

2nd September 2021

Dear parents

'God never said that the journey would be easy but he did say that the arrival would be worthwhile'

I hope that this letter finds you well and that you have had a wonderful summer break with your families and are refreshed and ready for the start back to school. I wanted to take this opportunity to keep you up to date with the current situation regarding COVID-19 and the return of children to school on Monday.

From September the DFE have said that there will be no year group bubbles however, we will still be taking precautions in school as we return. We are keeping the staggered starts for the moment and no parents on site. This will be pending review as the term begins. Thank you for your understanding with this. See reminder below:

SCHOOL DAY START AND END TIMES

RECEPTION	8:50AM –3:00PM
YEAR 1	8:45AM –2:55PM
YEAR 2	8:40AM –2:50PM
YEAR 3 & 4	8:40AM –2:50PM
YEAR 5 & 6	8:30AM –2:45PM

School attendance is mandatory which means required by law. It is your duty to ensure that your child attends school. It is also vital that your child is on time. The above times remain as they were last term and learning begins when the day begins for each year group. Therefore, if your child is late then they will miss the start of the day and this will impact on them. It is our responsibility by law to monitor attendance and this includes late marks too. We will continue to follow up lateness and absence but also provide essential support where it is needed for you and your child. If you have any worries or concerns, talk to us, we are here to help.

In school, we will be keeping certain control measures in place to ensure a safe return to school for everyone. We will continue to maximise ventilation and if any child still wishes to continue to wear a face covering then please do let your class teacher know and they will be allowed to do so. We will be maintaining our strict cleaning regimes, regular handwashing and sanitising of hands, desks and door handles. Priority will remain on continuing to promote the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

We will definitely be continuing with PE days; I do hope that you have managed to source the correct PE uniform. Like with all uniform, we will not allow children to be wearing inappropriate PE kit. All detail on school uniform is on the website and was sent out with the newsletter last term. If you have had any problems then please do let us know.

As you are aware the guidance around close contacts and self-isolation has changed over the summer holiday period. In essence, the guidance now states that:





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1. Children **must not** come into school if they:

- Have Covid-19 symptoms
- Have had a positive test result via a PCR test or a Lateral Flow test. Any child who has a positive lateral flow test should book a PCR test immediately. A negative PCR test will override a positive lateral flow test and the child can return to school. They must remain off whilst awaiting the result.
- Have been instructed to quarantine because of travelling from specified countries.

2. If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and follow public health advice.

3. Any child who is identified as a close contact with a positive case will be able to continue to attend school.

4. Please note that the school can refuse to allow a pupil to attend if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with Covid-19. Any decision will be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.

As I said in my letter in July, we still need to be cautious. COVID-19 has not gone away yet but I am hopeful that we will not see the levels of disruption in your children's education that we have experienced. Again, I thank you for your support with everything. Please be assured that as a school, we will continue to monitor the situation and will keep you updated. If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact me. My zoom meetings will resume this term as promised; the first one being Friday 17th September 2021. Invites will be sent in the usual way.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 6th September 2021. Enjoy your weekend!

Yours in faith and partnership

Mrs Louise Bury

Headteacher

