



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Archdiocese of
Birmingham

Tuesday 30th June 2020

Dear Parents and Year 4,

'You will succeed in whatever you choose to do,
and light will shine on the road ahead of you'

Job 22:28

With the latest Government guidance and reports about schools, I am pleased to be able to inform you that here at St Joseph's we are able to offer a closure opportunity for Year 4, so Year 4 pupils are able to say 'good-bye' to their current class teacher. We really have missed the Year 4 children and are excited to be able to bring these pupils back into school, even if for only a couple of hours.

As you know, I have been focused on planning a progressive and sustainable approach to wider re opening. The planning for the short return of Year 4 has been risk assessed and decisions about phasing, timing and management made, based on the outcomes of risk assessments. My plan is for Year 4 to return in two groups (Group A and Group B) **on Tuesday 14th July and Thursday 16th July**; I can assure you that the highest priority and consideration is the safety and wellbeing of your children, yourselves and the school staff. I cannot stress that enough to you.

Your child has been grouped into A or B by Mrs Boswell and Mr Kane. In line with Government guidelines, these groups will be no more than 15 pupils. Year 4 will be returning for just two hours to ensure social distancing rules can be applied along-side the other year groups who are already attending school. **Group A** will attend school **Tuesday 14th July from 8:40am-10:40am** and **Group B** will attend school **Thursday 16th July from 8:40am-10:40am**. If you responded 'yes' to the parent survey, then you will be sent your child's group information via text today confirming the group and the days. If you have not received a text with your child's group and did respond 'yes' to returning, then please contact the school. If you stated that you wouldn't be sending your child back on the parent survey and have changed your mind, you cannot just send your child in. You must email your class teacher with your intention to send your child, so we are aware of who will be attending on each day.

Provision continues for key worker and vulnerable children as normal. In line with Government guidelines if your child is currently accessing this provision then you will need to decide if you wish for them to join with their class group for these two hour (only attending school for two hours that day) or continue accessing the provision with the key worker group (enabling them to be in school for the whole day). **They cannot access both on the specified day because this would risk cross contamination.** If your child regularly attends key worker provision, please contact the school office to clarify your decision.

These two-hour sessions will take place in the year group classrooms with plenty of time outside, to ensure safety for all. There will be a focus on nurture, wellbeing and PSHE in the light of the situation with a main goal to ensure closure from this academic year for your child. The session will include designated times for hand washing and a short snack break; please ensure your child **only brings** a snack and water bottle to school. As we enter this new norm, children are returning in their uniform and **it is important that the children come in clean uniform.** Both Mrs Boswell and Mr Kane will be with their class groupings on their respective days.

The school site has been assessed to ensure that both inside and outside is used effectively to ensure the safety of all pupils and to support and help them with social distancing measures. We all know that children find it difficult to social distance and they will not be punished in any way if they do 'hug' a teacher and of course, in the event of first aid, they will be given the care and attention that they always have had





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but the teacher will wear PPE to protect themselves and the child. Social distancing will be modelled at all times this is to help them to keep themselves safe. Year 4 classrooms have been laid out to ensure as far as is possible, 1-metre plus gaps are in place. I cannot guarantee that is it exactly 2 metres.

Classrooms will be cleaned before and after the set time your children are in. I continue to praise our wonderful cleaning team who are doing an amazing job. Below are clearly listed other measures we have put in place to ensure safety for staff and pupils at this time.

- All children will have their own table in the classroom and their own stationery equipment.
- Measures have been taken to ensure that playtimes and lunchtimes are staggered, and the children will eat their snack outside where possible.
- They will not be using the cloakroom; they will put any jackets on the backs of their chair.
- Do not bring in any bags, just a snack and a water bottle.
- There will be no tuck shop so children will need to bring themselves a snack for playtime.

Year 4's closure session will begin at **8:40am**. Year 4 will enter school through the back gates and onto the KS2 playground. **No parents will be allowed into the main playground.** When you arrive at school on 14th or 16th July, depending on your group, Mrs Jackson or myself will be there to help you. Signs stating Year 4 Oak A/B & Year 4 Pear A/B will be marked for you so don't worry. **Please do not arrive before 8:40am.** Children will be met by their teacher, will line up, socially distanced with their group and taken into class. Please drop your child and go, to allow for all children to be dropped safely.

Year 4's closure session will end at **10:40am**. Children will be brought to the respective gates and dismissed to you. Please do not arrive before **10:40am** but be ready to promptly leave with your child. Again, Mrs Jackson or myself will be there to help you. Please use the class email addresses to contact your child's teacher if you need to pass on any key messages for the day.

As a parent, I know that you will have so many questions and worries. I cannot detail in this letter all the arrangements that have been put in place to ensure guidelines are met and safety is assured. But to try to support you as much as possible, I have created a Q&A opportunity for you on Friday 10th July 2020 at 10:30am via zoom where you will be able to join me virtually to ask any questions you still have. An invitation will be sent out to you via email to allow you to link in and ask me questions that I hope I will be able to answer. For me, this has been the best way to allow all concerns to be dealt with and it will be good to see you all too.

Thank you again for your support and understanding at this challenging time.
Yours in faith and partnership

Mrs Louise Bury
Headteacher

