



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Louise Bury B. Ed

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Archdiocese of
Birmingham

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and Year 6

'And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good' Romans 8:28

Today marks the end of the first half of the summer term and in any 'normal' circumstances we would be beginning half term and looking forward to the last half term of the academic year, and for you, your last half term at St Joseph's. It is quite poignant that this year 6, being the last single cohort of St Joseph's should leave our school under these most surreal circumstances, but I can assure you that we are going to do everything we can to ensure that their leaving is just as special, just as personal and just as much a celebration of all that they have achieved in their time here. I thank you all for working with them on their home learning over these last weeks.

Following the Government's announcement, I wanted to plan for a progressive and sustainable approach to wider re opening. The planning for the return of the Preschool, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 has been risk assessed and decisions about phasing, timing and management made, based on the outcomes of risk assessments. Year 6 will be the first to return on 1st June and this letter is to inform you of the decisions that have been made and to 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.

As we enter this new norm, we have decided the children will return in their uniform. Year 6 will be in for four days so your children will be in school from Monday to Thursday. There may be some days where they are asked to come in PE uniform. It is important that the children come in clean clothes everyday. We do have lots of secondhand uniform that we are happy to give to you to use at this time. Please do let me know if this is something that you would be interested in and I can arrange for it to be put out. Provision will remain for key worker and vulnerable children Monday to Friday.

Your children have been grouped into two A groups and two B groups by Mrs Hackley. You will be sent the group that your child is in, via text, if you replied to the survey to say that your child will be returning. If you have not received a text with your child's group, then please contact the school on Tuesday for clarification.

If you stated that you wouldn't be sending your child back on 1st June, if you change your mind, you cannot just send your child in. We have a system whereby we will review at the end of each week to enable us to continue to maintain safety and social distancing. If there are issues and we need to amend groupings then we will contact you. Likewise, if you want your child to now attend school, you will need to contact us and then wait for a decision based on the school risk assessment.

In line with Government guidelines these groups, if all children attend, will be no more than 15 pupils. Each group will have a teacher who will work with them each day that they are in. Mrs Hackley will be with Group A and Miss Annese will be with Group B. That teacher will be with them everyday. Both groups will be delivered the same curriculum which is in line with what is needed to now be covered before the move to secondary and many opportunities for nurture, wellbeing and PSHE in the light of the situation. The timetable will include designated times for hand washing.





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The school site has been assessed to ensure that both inside and outside is used effectively to ensure the safety of all pupils adhering to social distancing measures. Year 6 classrooms have been laid out to ensure as far as is possible, 2-metre gaps are in place. I cannot guarantee that it is exactly 2 metres, please visit the Year 6 page of the website where there is a picture of the classroom layout. Classrooms will be cleaned at lunchtime and then at the end of the school day.

- **All children will have their own table in the classroom and their own stationery equipment.** Your children will enter the school through the front gates, the back gates will remain locked.
- Measures have been taken to ensure that playtimes and lunchtimes are staggered, and the children will eat outside where possible.
- They will not be using the cloakroom; they will put any jackets on the backs of their chair.
- Don't bring in any bags, just a lunchbox (if having packed lunch).
- Please bring in a packet of colouring pencils to leave in school.
- There will be no tuck shop so children will need to bring themselves a snack for playtime.
- Hot lunches will be available, if you know that you have credits then please can you email Tina on catering@st-josephs-pri.worcs.sch.uk to find out how many you have. The menu offered will be week 3 - you can check this on the website.

Their school day will begin at **8.40am** to allow for the Key worker children to come in at 8.50am. When you arrive at school on 1st June, Mrs Jackson and myself will be there to help you. Signs A & B will be on the pedestrian gates, the main gates will be closed. **Please do not arrive before 8.40am.** The intention is that you walk your children into school through the A or B gate and then leave them and walk out. **No parents will be allowed into the main playground at the front.** Group B will enter through the pedestrian gate into the KS2 playground and Group A will enter the KS2 playground via the large gates on the left-hand side. This will be clearly marked for you so don't worry. Children will be met by their teacher, will line up, socially distanced with their group and taken into class via the outside of the building .

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. However with this in mind, I have decided to create a Q&A opportunity on a Friday – starting next Friday 29th May 2020. This will be done via Zoom. A code will be sent out to you via text to allow you to link in and ask me questions that I hope I will be able to answer. For me this is the best way to allow all concerns to be dealt with and it will be good to see you too.

Thank you again for your support and understanding at this challenging time.

Yours in faith and partnership

Mrs Louise Bury
Headteacher

