



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Archdiocese of
Birmingham

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

1st September 2020



Dear parents,

I look forward to welcoming you back from Thursday. I do hope that you have all managed to find some quality time with your children and are ready for the year ahead, whatever challenges that may bring. You will have received notification for your child regarding the 3rd and 4th September, which group and days they are required to be in. Home learning will be provided over the Thursday and Friday on your children's new year group page and is to be completed on the day that your child is not expected to attend. This then needs to be brought into school on Friday 4th or Monday 7th of September.

These days will NOT affect your child's attendance. If we expect your child in then that will be treated as such. From Monday 7th September we will welcome all children back into school. We have to legally provide home learning opportunities as we work through this situation to support any children who have to self-isolate so there will always be activities for your children available on their year group page and the year group emails will continue to enable you to liaise with your child's class teacher when you need to.

As a reminder, for your information:

From September, times and entrance points as follows:

Front Gate:

Start Time:

8:30am Year Six and Year Five:
8:40am Year Three:
8:50am Year Four:
9:00 am Pre School:

End Time

2:45pm
2:55pm
3:05pm * note change
3:15pm

Back Gate:

Start Time

8:40am Year Two:
8:50am Year One:
9:00am Reception:

End Time

2:55pm
3:00pm
3:15pm





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This ongoing situation continues to influence decisions and actions in school; I can assure you that the information and instruction that I share with you is in line with the guidance from the Government and the staggered start and end times of the day must be maintained in line with Government guidelines. Safety is and always will be, paramount and I will continue to ensure that we keep children, staff and yourselves safe. As always I will be evaluating all arrangements and informing you of any changes as they occur. We have to make this work for us and any feedback from yourselves is most welcome.

Further reminders

- **Please do not arrive before your year group start time.** The intention is that you walk your children to the school gate and then leave them to walk in. **No parents will be allowed into either playground.** Guidance specifically states that gathering at the school gates and otherwise coming onto the site without an appointment is not allowed. **ALL parents will drop off and pick up at the gate.**
- **Special arrangements have been made with new reception / pre school parents for the beginning of the year.**
- No rucksacks to be brought into school; school book bags will be used by all children to avoid unnecessary congestion in the cloakrooms. **Book bags can be purchased from School Togs at a cost of £5**
- Please leave PE bags at home at present. You will be informed of how we will deliver this as changing in school is not an option at present.
- Packed lunches can be brought in a lunchbox with cool pack to keep lunches cold.
- If you know that you have lunch credits then please can you email Tina on catering@st-josephs-pri.worcs.sch.uk to find out how many you have. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals then a lunch will be provided for them.
- Only cold lunches will be served until further notice. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will still be entitled to their universal school meals. We want to get back to a hot lunch service as soon as is possible so please do bear with us.
- No tuck shop will be available at this time so children need to bring a healthy snack in their book bag each day.

Further Updates:

Following the continued guidance on masks, I know that there may be children who wish to wear a mask – whilst it is not mandatory for children under the age of 11 to wear masks in the listed places, I want all of our children to feel comfortable therefore I will not stop any child who wishes to wear a mask into school. Any children who bring a mask to school, are responsible for it, must not share it and are to keep it with their equipment in the designated space in the classroom. Teachers will **not** be held responsible for any child's personal mask. As part of our risk assessment procedure, I have to advise you that if your child chooses to wear a reusable face covering mask you must provide a plastic bag for your child to store it in whilst at school.

Disposable masks are available in school for all staff to use as necessary which is in line with the guidance, there are covered bins for disposal of these masks if used. There is a covered bin in every classroom and in the medical room.





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Attendance expectations:

From the start of the autumn term 2020 pupil attendance will be mandatory and the usual rules on attendance will apply (including parents' duty to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends regularly at the school where the child is a registered pupil, schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence, and the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with local authorities' codes of conduct).

If a child or member of staff tests positive they now have to self-isolate for at least 10 days even if they feel well. If they are NOT a known contact of a confirmed case they can return if the result is negative, provided they feel well and they have not had a fever for 48 hours. If they are a contact of a confirmed case, they must stay off school/setting for the 14-day isolation period, even if they test negative. This is because they can develop the infection at any point up to day 14 (the incubation period for COVID-19), so if they test negative on day 3 they may still go on to develop the infection. You need to contact the school using the normal procedure for reporting absence but MUST inform us if the illness is Covid related thereby we will keep us all safe.

Following the success of the Q&A zoom meetings that have taken place, I am proposing to offer from September, a Friday Q&A with myself fortnightly as we move through and hopefully out of this situation. The first one will be scheduled for Friday 11th September at 10am and then every fortnight after that. Invitations will be sent out for these sessions.

With this letter, I have attached an up to date leaflet to help you understand the precautions and risk assessments that have been put into place to keep school communities safe during this difficult time. You can also find a copy of this document on the school website.

This is going to be a very challenging year for us but I know that we can do this. Thank you your ongoing support; let us look forward with positivity to the future ahead. We've got this!!!

Yours in faith and partnership

Mrs Louise Bury
Headteacher

