

St Joseph The Worker R C Primary School

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26.2.2021

Dear Families,

I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful half term break. This term we have many events to look forward to including celebrating World Book Day, Science Week and the Season of Lent. This term children will be provided with opportunities to deepen their faith, raise money for school and those less fortunate, in addition to many other exciting learning opportunities. Further information regarding these events will be shared in other written communications.

As announced by the Government on Monday, all primary schools will be welcoming children back onsite on Monday 8th March. Teachers will continue, until then, to support remote learning and children at home through the remote learning platforms Tapestry and Seesaw. We were very impressed by the children's levels of engagement and attitude to learning last term and are certain that they, with your encouragement, will continue with their efforts over the next week. We are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back and I am looking forward to meeting children and families for the very first time.

We are currently reviewing our COVID Risk Assessments, Policies and Procedures in order to welcome children back safely. We will be continuing with the staggered start and end times to the day and are currently refreshing the playground markings to encourage social distancing. **All adults entering the school site will be requested to wear a face mask when dropping off and picking up children in line with risk assessments and government advice.** We urge all adults to respect these measure as they are in place in order to keep the community safe and children in school.

We will be opening the school gates in the morning at 8.40am and closing them at 9.00am. They will be open at the end of the day at 2.40pm. Can we kindly ask families to drop children off and pick them up swiftly to limit the numbers of adults and children in the playground at any given time. Children must be supervised at all times and stay with their family unit. This again is with safety in mind.

Can I please also remind children to return to school wearing the correct school uniform. Establishing good routines and high expectations help the children to take pride in themselves and in their learning. If your child has lost their tie a new one can be purchased from the school office. Schools are required to resume all the usual attendance procedures from 8th March. If your child is unable to attend school, for whatever reason, this must be reported to the office before 9.00am.



If your child is feeling unwell in any way you are still **advised to keep them at home**. We are **still advising immediate isolation** to anyone who is suffering any of the three **classical symptoms**, namely: new continuous cough; a high temperature (fever); or a loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell, or have a positive test result.

You are able to book a COVID-19 test for your child/ren who attend our school if they feel unwell with 'non-classical' COVID-19 symptoms.

Non-classical symptoms include:

- Vomiting/nausea/off your food
- Diarrhoea
- Sleeping more than usual/extreme tiredness
- Listless/restless/agitated
- Sore throat
- Skin rash
- Shortness of breath
- Feeling cold
- Headache
- Severe body aches
- Congested or runny nose
- Complaining of anything that is not feeling themselves

To book a test please visit www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test and, when prompted, click the box "My local council has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms".

Finally, can I remind families that we are still in a period of lockdown despite the reopening of schools. Please adhere to all government guidelines and measures. **Children should not be mixing with others outside of their own family/support bubble**. Adhering to all safety measures will help to ensure the school remains open and that disruption to education in the future is minimised.

I will be writing to families again next week to confirm all arrangements. In the meantime I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you all for your patience, cooperation and understanding.

By working together we can secure the best outcomes for everyone.

Kind regards

E Clayton

Acting Headteacher

