

# St Joseph The Worker R C Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Evelyn Clayton B.A.Hons QTS



Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Dear Families,

I hope that you have had an enjoyable and restful summer break and that you have spent some well needed quality time with family and friends. All the staff at St Joseph's are really looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Thursday 2nd September. Our focus this year will continue to be high quality face to face education for all our pupils.

## Covid 19 Updates

Government guidance on how schools should operate in regard to Covid 19, have been updated over the holiday period. One key message remains the same:

**Anyone displaying symptoms of the COVID 19 virus should stay at home and access a PCR test.**

Classic Covid symptoms are:

- a high temperature
- continuous cough
- and loss of taste or smell

Other non-classical symptoms include:

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

Please continue to be vigilant in assessing the health of your child.



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In school we will continue to contact parents and ask that a child is collected from the premises if they are symptomatic. We can take the decision to refuse a pupil to school if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. This decision would be carefully considered, in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.

We will continue to:

- Ask pupils to wash/sanitise their hands regularly.
- Ask pupils to cough or sneeze into a paper tissue and dispose of the waste in a lidded bin.
- Maintain regular cleaning regimes.
- Minimise the sharing of equipment/resources.
- Open windows/doors to refresh air/aid airflow in the room.

Pupils will no longer be required to stay in their class ‘bubbles’ and may now mix freely at playtimes and at lunchtime. Children will **not need to self-isolate** if someone they live with has symptoms of COVID-19, or has tested positive for COVID-19, or if they have been identified as a close contact of a positive case. **They should however, even if they do not have symptoms, get a PCR test.** Please continue to notify and update the office of all PCR tests and results.

### Outbreak Management Plan

Cases of Covid 19 will be carefully monitored over the coming term. If there are a number of cases within a 10 day period we will be required to consult with the relevant Health Authorities and the Local Authority and may be required to action additional safety measures outlined in an ‘Outbreak Management Plan’. This would only be in exceptional circumstances to control a potential outbreak within the setting or local area. Additional measures could include the reintroduction of ‘bubbles’ for a temporary period or limiting the numbers of children onsite for a short period of time.

### Start and end times

We are keeping staggered start times this term. This is not a preventative measure but to help with congestion. Start and end times to the day are:

	Nursery	Reception	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Drop off time	8:50am	8:55am	8:50am	8:55am	8:50am	8:55am	8:50am	8:55am
Pick up time	2:55pm	3pm	2:55pm	3pm	2:55pm	3pm	2:55pm	3pm



## Uniform

Children are asked to wear clean school uniform every day. They should wear sensible black shoes, **not trainers**, as per uniform policy. I am attaching a copy of the policy for your reference. Children will be required to change into a PE kit this term for gymnastics and sports lessons. Please label all clothes with your child's name as this helps identify them if they get misplaced or lost. Your child's class teacher will let you know the days your child requires their kit.

## Healthy snacks

Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle every day and a healthy snack if they are in Year 3 to 6. A piece of fruit or an unsweetened dried fruit option is advised. Children lower down the school will be provided a piece of fruit daily. Children may refill their water bottles using the school water fountains.

I sincerely hope that this letter provides you with all the necessary reassurances and information to ensure a smooth and happy start to the new academic year. I am really looking forward to seeing all the children return to school again. All the staff at St Joseph's will continue to work hard to provide a safe and stimulating learning environment for your child. I wish pupils every success this year and look forward to witnessing their achievements.

'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'

Best wishes



E Clayton  
Headteacher

