

St Joseph The Worker R C Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Evelyn Clayton B.A.Hons QTS

Friday, 7th January 2022

Dear Families,

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy new year. I hope that you managed to enjoy Christmas and that Covid-19 did not disrupt your plans over the festive period. In anticipation of school reopening on Monday 10th January, please give the following update close consideration.

Attendance.

All pupils should continue to attend face-to-face education, unless they are self-isolating in line with government guidance. The government has confirmed that attendance remains mandatory for all pupils upon their return in January.

Staff Absence – Contingency Planning.

There is little doubt that staff and pupil attendance will be negatively affected by the recent surge in Covid-19 cases within the community. As always, contingency plans are in place to limit the disruption caused to your children, but we cannot escape the fact that high levels of staff and pupil absence will provide many challenges. With your support, we hope to be able to maintain face-to-face education and will work hard to provide the best possible educational experiences for our pupils.

LFT Testing

We encourage all children (aged 5+) and staff to complete a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) before returning to school on Monday. We must all work together to keep Covid-19 out of school and limit the possibility of short-term closures and staff absence.

Isolation Periods

1. In the event that your child tests positive for Covid-19, individuals may take an LFT test on Day 6 and Day 7 (24 hours apart). If both of these are negative, their isolation can end and they can return to school. Evidence of the negative results will need to be provided to the school office. If either result is positive, your child must complete the full **10 Day** isolation period.



2. In the event of a positive Covid-19 test within the household, or if your child has been a close contact, they should take a daily LFT test for 7 days but can come to school as normal if these tests remain negative. The only exception to this rule, is for children under 5 years of age.

Face coverings

Face coverings for primary age children continue to be discouraged. They will be compulsory for all adults entering the school building. Face coverings will be mandatory when parents meet with teachers and such meetings will be prioritised based on need. We are anxious to limit close contact in an effort to reduce staff absence and the disruption this causes.

Patience and Understanding

As we battle to deal with an expected surge in staff absence, there may be times when we are unable to maintain the level of provision to which you have become accustomed. Classroom provision will remain our priority, but there may be occasions when reading books are not changed or homework set/marked. In regards to communication, we will do our best to respond as promptly as possible to any general queries, but will prioritise any serious concerns or worries you may have. **Please help us by reading the written updates sent by email/text. A large proportion of the office time is spent dealing with telephone calls relating to information already shared with families and available on our website.**

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday.

Best Wishes



Mrs. E. Clayton
Headteacher

