

St JOSEPH'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



8th Dec' 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Happy New Year! –This seems a bit flat now after this week's recent events. However, it was really lovely to see you all back on Monday with your happy smiling faces (mostly by the parents). Unfortunately, this was soon stopped on Monday night by Mr Johnsons' announcement.

We had done some initial preparations for this, so we were in a good place on Tuesday to get things ready for re-opening on Wednesday.

The guidelines have changed considerably since the first lockdown, in terms of which children are allowed to attend school and the expectation around home learning. The expectation is that primary aged children engage in approximately 3 hours of learning each day. I feel our current offer meets these requirements in terms of guided lessons, daily routines like, 'Time Tables Rockstars', 'Bedrock', 'Spelling Shed', etc. Phonics, Topic, Science and RE.

Mrs Beckett has also trialed a Zoom assembly today for Years 1 and 2, and Miss Cooper is going to schedule a story time session next week for FS2.

Years 5 and 6 will also do their first Zoom next week.

Mr Searson is working on producing weekly assemblies and liturgies for you to take part in and Mrs Owen has trialed a zoom intervention for phonics, which we will be offering to children in Year 1 and Year 2.

As you can see we have been very busy.

The DFE guidance has been updated and we have fed this into the school's risk assessment. It confirms that schools should keep group sizes small, and with this in mind we have taken the decision to split the year 3 and 4 bubble up as the numbers of children now exceeds our maximum bubble size of 15.

We would love more children to attend but we can only accept children into school who are deemed vulnerable or whose parents or carer is a critical worker.

The country has gone into lockdown for a reason to stop the spread of the virus and to keep the NHS from being overwhelmed, the safest places for children and parents is at home. Schools remain open so parents can continue to work and our vulnerable children in society are kept safe.

We know that situations change, we have seen this last week and what is in place next week might change, as it may with your situation. Please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Glossop or myself if you need to discuss or are worried about what is happening at home.

We will continue to provide a weekly newsletter to keep you all informed.

Please take care and hope to see you all again soon.

Mrs Briggs

Free School Meals

At the moment there are no plans for a voucher scheme to be put in place like last time. Instead a food hamper is being offered on a weekly basis to be collected from school every Tuesday starting on the 19th January. Mrs Glossop has now contacted all the parents eligible. If you think you are entitled to this provision please Dojo Mrs Glossop

School Crossing

From next week we will only have a crossing patrol on the following days/times:

- Monday morning
- Tuesday morning and afternoon
- Wednesday morning
- Thursday morning and afternoon
- Friday morning

National Tests

The Government have now confirmed that the statutory tests in Year 2 and Year 6 will not take place this year. They have not confirmed what will take their place, but I am presuming this will be teacher assessment.

In addition, the phonics screening in Year 1 will also not take place in the summer and I presume this will take place during the Autumn Term when the children are in Year 2, which has happened this year.

Keeping in Touch

We will be doing weekly check in's with children and parents from next week, so please engage with your class teachers on Dojo.