

# St JOSEPH'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



4th Sept' 2020

*Dear parents and carers,*

Dear Parents/Carers

Hearing children's voices around school again has been a joy, we have missed them all tremendously and Wednesday saw them all arrive back, much taller than we last saw them. They were all really excited to return and settled into school with ease. It was hard to tell that they had been away for so long. You have all done an amazing job.

We have started straight into work, as there is so much to catch up on. Covid restrictions still remain in place, so there will be no 'paper' home work set, but tasks will be placed on Class Dojo and other homework will be Times Tables Rockstars, Spelling Shed and Bedrock. All of which the children have a log-on and can access at home (Y1 do not start these until later in the school year). In terms of reading, if children bring a book in from home, then we ask that it remains in school until they have completed it, rather than brought in backward and forward each day.

KS1 reading and phonics books will not be sent out for the foreseeable future and class teachers will keep you updated.

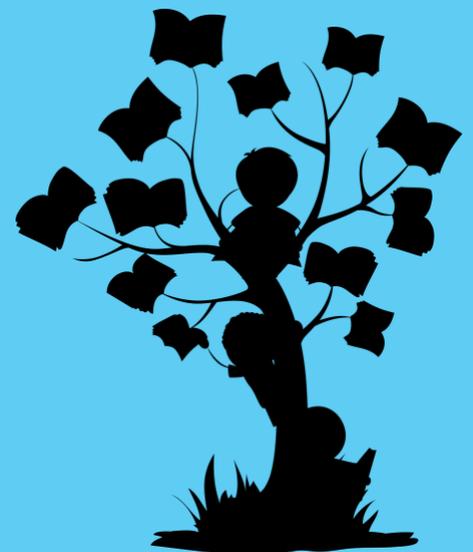
I am afraid as the term goes on there will be changes or tweaks to what is happening in school, and these will be either on the school newsletter or Dojo as before. Please read these, as there may be important information on them.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Briggs

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## [Inset Days](#)

The last two inset days will be Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July – School will therefore close to children on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## [Holidays in term time](#)

Holidays taken in term time are always unauthorised, if you are taking your child out of school for a holiday, a holiday request form must be completed. You will need to advise school where you are intending to travel especially if you are travelling abroad. As quarantine rules on your return may apply.

If you are going on holiday abroad and while you are there the country is added to the quarantine list then your child will not be allowed back into school for 14 days after the date you return and will need to self-isolate. If you are going for two weeks this could mean your child is out of school for 4 weeks, after being out of school for 5 months! If this happens School will not provide work for your child during this time as their absence is unauthorised.

If you have any concerns regarding holidays already booked please contact the school office or Mrs Glossop.

## [Contacting school or your class teacher](#)

Where possible please liaise with your class teacher via Class Dojo. If you would like to speak to them in school then please arrange an appointment either via Class Dojo or ring the school reception.

Parents wishing to speak in school will need to make an appointment first, so we can arrange a room in order to socially distance.

Anybody attending a meeting will need to wear a mask.

Any queries as always speak with Mrs Glossop on the gate, via Class Dojo or ring the school office.

## [Birthday Cakes](#)

Due to the covid-19 restrictions we will not be allowed to handle food brought in from outside, this includes birthday cakes or other sweets from trips or holidays.

## [Drink bottles, lunch boxes or other stuff](#)

If you are dropping anything off for your child during the day – please wait outside reception and then when asked to enter, leave the item on the table.

Food brought into school is for your child and not to be shared with others.



## Outdoor Learning/Forest School

This is our new initiative this year, and falls in line with DFE guidelines about children being outside as much as possible. Each class has a timetabled slot, each week, to take part in forest school learning outside regardless of the weather.

We are therefore asking on the day your child is timetabled for forest school they wear jogging bottoms like for PE and bring a change of shoes – ideally if they have some ‘wellies’ that can be left in school that would be even better.

School are in the process of buying an assortment of ‘wellies’ and waterproof trousers, but if children have their own please send them in.



## PE

Children no longer need to bring a PE kit into school. On their PE day we ask that your child comes to school in jogging bottoms and suitable footwear for PE – (or a change of footwear) – top half uniform is still needed.

Check in with your class teacher to check the days for Forest School and PE.

## Being Warm in school

Please ensure children come to school suitably dressed, i.e. coat and fleece or jumper as they will be outside as much as possible and the classroom windows/doors will be open – Fleece or Hoodies need to be red.

## Uniform Reminder

Black shoes or trainers are part of school uniform.

## Parent Voice

I can confirm that over the holidays our MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) has finally been installed. This is after tireless fund raising, grants and bids received over the last three years. It will make a massive difference to the children and I am sure they have already told you about it. We have also had the yard re-surfaced and hopefully, fingers crossed, addressed the drainage problems.



## Outdoor learning and Forest School

Our aim going forward is to develop the whole child beyond just the academic ability and part of the way we encourage holistic growth is through our outdoor learning sessions. We are very lucky to have an area of the school grounds which has been dedicated to outdoor learning. As well as a naturally covered nature trail, the site also has mature trees, a permanent seating circle and areas of grass with a wide range of fauna and flora. It provides a secure and enriching environment where children are happy to take risks, make choices and initiate their own learning.



Along with adult helpers, our teachers will facilitate organic learning through real experiences. Our sessions are planned around and guided by the 6 principles of Forest School set out by the forest school Association. The children grow holistically in body, mind and soul, whilst understanding the world around them by exploration and discovery.

The following 6 Principles are taken from The Archimedes Forest Schools ENERGY model©

- ⇒ **Everyone** – The sessions are accessible for everyone, regardless of ability or age.
- ⇒ **Neuroscience** - base our sessions on the research and understanding of the Triune Brain – Reptilian, Limbic and Cortex.
- ⇒ **Emotional Wealth** - is a master skill and without it we as humans will find it very difficult, if not impossible, to be content, happy or successful in life.
- ⇒ **Relationships** – Outdoor learning helps us address healthy relationships in many ways. It opens opportunities for developing an understanding of investment in relationships, cultural understanding and social norms which is so often lost in our modern digital age.
- ⇒ **Generation of ideas** – The sessions generate excitement, curiosity, passion and thought processes which can be sometimes absent in the traditional classroom. Without the ability to think outside the box, children will become rigid and stuck in their learning and future choices.
- ⇒ **Yearly** – Outdoor learning and the child's holistic development is a long-term process and built in to the academic year. Programs cross the seasons and the weather (except dangerous weather conditions) does not hinder the session delivery.

More information can be found at [www.forestschoolassociation.org/](http://www.forestschoolassociation.org/)

During an outdoor learning session, children take part in any number of activities. Because the learning is child-directed, the scope of the activities that can take place is enormous. Typical activities include sensory walks, shelter building, mini beast hunts, woodwork, nature art, puddle and mud jumping etc. The possibilities are endless. More than that though, 80 – 90% of the national curriculum can be taught in an outdoor classroom!

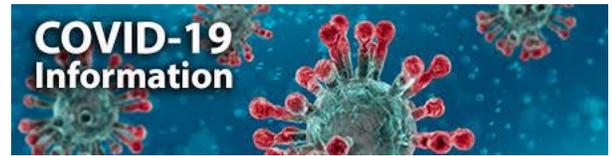
We strongly believe that children benefit from the simple act of being outdoors. Research has shown that it improves mental and spiritual health, communication skills and social relationships, among other things. We find children to be more calm, centred and ready to learn indoors after just a 30-minute session in our outdoor space!

## **In Forest School we are always**

**F**inding and  
**D**iscovering  
**O**bserving  
**R**espectful  
**E**ncouraging  
**S**taying safe  
**T**ogether



## Covid Testing



The Department for Education has worked closely with Public Health England (PHE) and NHS Test and Trace to ensure that we are doing all we can to minimise the potential risks of spread. A key part of this is the appropriate use of testing to help identify people who are positive and subsequently their contacts. We have made testing available throughout the country and anyone with symptoms can book a test online or over the telephone through 119 to get the certainty they need to protect themselves and those around them.

Crucial to our overall support for schools and colleges is ensuring that everyone with coronavirus symptoms has access to a test as soon as they develop those symptoms. It is vital that we learn from the recent Scottish experience, where the return of schools saw a huge increase in demand for tests from people without coronavirus symptoms. We want to avoid a similar surge in test demand as England's schools and colleges return to ensure that we continue to prioritise our testing capacity for those with symptoms and to avoid children, students and their families self-isolating unnecessarily.

To ensure we identify those with coronavirus while avoiding a huge increase in demand for tests from people without coronavirus symptoms, we ask that you recommend to your pupils, students and staff who feel unwell, that they get tested if:

- ⇒ they develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms:
- ⇒ a high temperature
- ⇒ a new, continuous cough
- ⇒ the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell, or
- ⇒ they are recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse)

**If a pupil, or staff member develops one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms described above, only they should be tested. There is no need for their households to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic.**

Pupils and students may feel unwell for example with a sore throat, stomach upset or a headache. These pupils don't need to book a test but may need to stay off school but could seek medical advice through their GP or pharmacist as usual.

## St Joseph's Cup Winner

We've only been back 2 days but already we have a winner for the St Joseph's Cup. This week, Mrs Smith in Year 6 has nominated Ceryis for the award.

Ceryis has made a great start to Year 6 with her mature attitude to learning and the wonderful effort she puts into her learning. Well done Ceryis!

## Golden Book Learners

The teachers have had a difficult decision to make after just 2 days back at school. We would like to give all the children a huge thank you and well done for coming back to school so ready and eager to learn. However, we have had to choose one child from each class for this week's certificate.

<p><b>Year 1</b></p> <p><b>Max for being so brave and settling into Year 1 so quickly. Well Done.</b></p>	<p><b>Year 2</b></p> <p><b>Brook for always being ready to learn and demonstrating an excellent attitude to her learning.</b></p>	<p><b>Year 3</b></p> <p><b>Avneet for starting at school in a difficult time but settling in brilliantly. Well done!</b></p>
<p><b>Year 4</b></p> <p><b>Olly K for immediately demonstrating how to actively engage with learning. Well done for contributing, enquiring and challenging yourself as every opportunity.</b></p>	<p><b>Year 5</b></p> <p><b>Oscar B for a fantastic start to Year 5.</b></p>	<p><b>Year 6</b></p> <p><b>Melanie for a great effort and attitude to learning.</b></p>