

S^t JOSEPH'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



5th March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Staff in school have been working hard to make sure school is ready for all the children returning on Monday. There is a surprise for the Year 6 children, I will not spoil it!

The Year 1 classroom has had a lick of paint. FS2 classroom has had a new light fitted and the outdoor area cleaned and tidied.

We have a new shed and laptop trolley courtesy of Parent Voice.

We are so looking forward to seeing you all again on Monday, school is not school without children's voices and we have missed you all so much.

Best wishes,
Mrs Briggs



Diary Dates:

Monday 8th March: School opens to all pupils.

Friday 26th March: School closes for the Easter break

Monday 12th April: Return to school for all pupils.

Returning Back to School

We know that some children maybe anxious, this is normal, try to reassure them that they are safe and staff in school are here to help.

School will continue to run as before, which is why it is important that children come to school dressed in school uniform, this gives them a sense of belonging.

The next three weeks in school will be a settling in period, the school day will follow the usual timetables and all elements of the curriculum will be taught.

We recognise that children will have had different experiences during lockdown, so in order to ascertain where children are at, during week commencing 15th March, the children will be assessed. This will then allow class teachers to plan for the summer term teaching to gaps and organise catch-up learning and interventions. This is not unusual for this time of year when termly assessments take place.

Children in FS2, Year 1 and Year 2 have undertaken RWInc assessments prior to half term and the children have been grouped accordingly, these groups will start on Monday. These are the only children, which will be in mixed bubble group for their RWInc sessions. This is to ensure the children are learning at the correct ability level. Separate letters will be sent out next week and placed on class dojo.

Polling Day

After lobbying the council, on a number of occasions regarding the use of school for polling. I have been advised this week that school will no longer be a polling site, this will now take place at the customer service centre/library. This is great news. An inset day for May 6th is already in the school diary, however as this falls in the same week as May Day, we will discuss with Governors next week, whether this can be changed. As having an inset day on a Thursday is not ideal, if it is decided to change the day, you will be informed in plenty of time, so you can make alternative arrangements.

Covid Restrictions

Although schools are being allowed to re-open to all pupils, Covid still remains a risk to staff, parents and children in our community. Therefore the following protocols are still being adhered to in school:

- Children will continue to work and play in their class bubbles.
- Children will continue to sit in forward facing rows in the classroom (except in FS2 and Y1).
- Staff mixing with other bubbles will be kept to a minimum.
- Staff will wear masks in shared areas and where social distancing cannot be maintained
- One way system around school
- Lunch will continue to be eaten in the classroom except FS2 who will continue to use the hall
- Lidded bins remain in the classroom
- Paper towels will still be used
- Outside sinks and stringent hand washing will remain
- On PE and Forest school days children can wear jogging bottoms
- Lunch time closure on a Friday will remain – This will be reviewed next term
- No Breakfast club until at least after the May holiday

How Parents can help

- Use the one way system at pick up and drop off times
- Ensure you are on time at home time
- Maintain social distancing when collecting and picking up your child
- Wear a face mask
- Advise school if you or a member of your family is unwell with Covid symptoms or you or a family member has had a Covid test.
- Follow the Covid guidelines – A copy of this will be sent home with your child on Monday

Asymptomatic Staff Testing

Since Wednesday 27th January, staff have been taking Lateral Flow Tests twice weekly, Sunday and Wednesday evenings. This will continue for the foreseeable future. Further information will follow on Monday with your child.

Asymptomatic Testing for Parents and Adults with children at school or college

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college aged children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID 19) test kits.

Test kits can either be collected or ordered online, **these are not available from school.**

Undertaking regular, rapid testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free.

- If you live in the same household or share a support bubble with someone who is returning to primary, secondary or further education next week, you can get at home rapid tests. Find your local site here: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>
- Test sites are open between 1:30pm – 7pm for rapid test kit collection. Just enter your postcode - if you cannot see a site that is open, please try again later.
- If you can't get to one of the test sites to pick up your rapid test kits, you can order tests for delivery here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Covid – Symptoms, Infections and Transmission

The most common symptoms of coronavirus are the recent onset of any of the following:

- A new continuous cough
- A high temperature
- A loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell

There are several other symptoms linked with Covid 19. These other symptoms may have another cause and are not on their own a reason to have a Covid test. If you are concerned about your symptoms, seek medical advice.

Transmission

Covid 19 is mainly passed from person to person by contact with large respiratory droplets. These droplets can be directly inhaled by the person or can land on surfaces, which another person may touch which can lead to infection if they then touch their nose, mouth or eyes.

Incubation

The incubation period is the average time between exposure to the virus and developing symptoms. The average incubation period is around 5 days, though this can be as long as 10 days, or as short as a single day.

Infection Period

A person is thought to be infectious 2 days before symptoms appear, and up to 10 days after they start displaying symptoms. If someone without symptoms tests positive then they are considered to have been infectious from 2 days prior to the positive test until 10 days after the test date.

The 2 days are counted from the morning of the 2 days before the date of the onset of the symptoms and not 48 hours from the time of onset of symptoms. For example, a person who developed symptoms at 2pm on the 15th November would be asked to identify contacts for the morning of the 13th November.