

# S<sup>t</sup> JOSEPH'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

*Dear parents and carers,*

As another week draws to a close, we have seen a few more children struggle with tiredness, which hits home how difficult the past lockdown has been for them this time round. They've had a very busy couple of weeks getting back into routines and the expectations of school. Please take some time to talk to them about how they are feeling and reassure them that it is completely natural for them to feel like this.

When lockdown was lifted on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, my first thought was it would be better if they re-opened school after Easter, but seeing how some children have struggled it has allowed them to get back to normality prior to the holidays. The holidays should be a time for them to relax and forget school.

Next week the Governors will meet and discuss the current COVID restrictions, the agenda will cover:

- Breakfast Club
- The 8:30 opening
- lunch time
- Friday afternoon's
- After school clubs.

When making any changes, we have to think about the current COVID lockdown rules and the R rate in Rotherham, as the majority of cases in school are community driven. Nobody, more than myself want to see school back to how it was before. As always I will keep you informed.

Best wishes,

Mrs Briggs



## **Diary Dates:**

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March – FS2 height and weight check

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March: School closes for the Easter break

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April: Return to school for all pupils.

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April – FS2 vision check, please ensure you have completed your consent letter and returned to school. If you need another copy please contact Mrs Glossp.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Inset Day

## **Holy Week**

Next week school will celebrate Holy Week with the children. Whole school assemblies, mass and singing are still not allowed in school, so we have come up with different ways to mark the most important celebration of the liturgical calendar.

Each day the class will have a liturgy and share the Easter Story

Day 1: Triumphal Entry on Palm Sunday. ...

Day 2: The Last Supper

Day 3: Garden of Gethsemane – Jesus' Arrest

Day 4: Pontius Pilot and the trial of Jesus

Day 5: The Crucifixion/Resurrection

Children have been making crosses in Forest School and will attach their lent promises to this.

There will then be an outdoor activity on Thursday whereby the children will undertake a 'fact hunt' around the Stations of the Cross and write their Lent promises in chalk on a large cross on the playground.

If you have any prayers you wish the children to share during liturgies please send them with your children or send a message to their class teacher on Class Dojo.

## **National Census Day**

Census day is Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March. I am sure you will have all received your Census letter by now from the Government. RMBC have asked schools to remind parents, as I believe there is quite a hefty fine if this is not completed. The Census can be completed online or a postal return can be requested please see [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)

## **Diary Dates**

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March – FS2 height and weight check

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April – FS2 vision check, please ensure you have completed your consent letter and returned to school. If you need another copy please contact Mrs Glossop.

## **Appointments during the school day**

We are still requesting parents not to send children back to school if they have been for appointments (doctors, dentists etc) during the school day.

A copy of any appointment card or text message are still required as part of the school's safeguarding checks.

Any queries or concerns regarding this please contact myself on class dojo or Mrs Hallam in the school office.

## **Protect the Planet! – Drawing Competition**

Fancy winning an exciting book bundle from the author, vet, TV presenter, and animal expert Jess French, for you and your school?

All you have to do is draw what you think an environmentally friendly city or town may look like! If you are stuck for inspiration, there are some hints and times on the competition form. Please ask your class teacher for one next week. Closing date is April 4<sup>th</sup>. If you bring them back to school by next Friday, I will make sure they are entered into the competition.

## **Lateral Flow Tests (LFD) – When to use them – update**

I know some parents have access to LFD tests through their jobs or have collected them to test weekly, like staff are doing in school, however please follow the guide below, these tests are only to be used if you do not have symptoms they are for **asymptomatic testing only**.

If you are unsure, please seek advice from 111, or the Government Website.

If asked for advice, we will always say to have a test, as we are not clinicians, we just follow the Government guidelines and it is better to be safe.

### **Should I use the test if I have any symptoms of Covid-19?**

No. You should not use this test if you have developed Covid-19 suspect symptoms, since the LFD may give a false-negative result and hence provide a false re-assurance.

The LFD test may be false negative, as we know it is not as sensitive as the PCR.

If you have [coronavirus symptoms](#), please call 111 or book a PCR test. Advise school immediately.

### **When should I NOT perform the LFD test?**

- You should not perform the test on non-work days, when on leave or if working from home.
- If you have had a positive Covid-19 PCR in the previous 90 days, you should not perform the LFD as it may give false positive result.
- **If you have any Covid-19 symptoms, you should NOT perform the LFD test.**
  - You should **also** begin self-isolation as per [existing guidelines](#).
  - You should report this to school as soon as possible even if it is during the weekend.