



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
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EX8 1TA

Headteacher: Mrs N Taylor-Bashford

Tel: 01395 264875

6.1.2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are keeping safe and well.

We should now have all the critical worker forms back for anyone who needs or might need a place. We do have a very large number of people needing places.

We are back to keeping bubble sizes small, ideally 10 or under. Due to the number of places we have had to allocate we still have all our staff members in for all of, or most of, their usual hours. We are able to keep most of the classes separate but this does mean we run the risk of having to close classes to critical workers if we have staff off ill for any reason.

It also means that teachers are in school teaching and trying to organise the remote learning so please bear with us.

Our bubbles are: FSU

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3/4

Year 5 and 6

Office staff are working on a rota and often working from home so again please bear with us if you don't get an immediate response and at times I am covering in the office so again please bear with us.

Remote learning

This week remote learning is being sent home every day over Google Classroom.

The same will happen next week but from Monday there will be a live meeting each day with the class teachers. The teachers will take the register during this and it will be an opportunity for them to talk through the work set for the day and children to ask any questions.

Teachers will request which work needs to be submitted through Google Classroom and they will provide marking/feedback for this. Again, please appreciate they are teaching in class as well so responses will not be immediate. There is a document attached to this letter which gives information about how to upload a document.

Teachers will contact you to let you know what time each class meeting is and send you the link to join it. We have to stagger the meeting times to allow for siblings to be able to access their sessions.

With these sessions it is really important that children join promptly, are appropriately dressed, in a family room not their bedroom, that everything that can be seen behind them is appropriate and no other children (except siblings) or adults (except parents/carers) are in the room. This is for safeguarding reasons. For the older children, parents do not have to be present for the meetings but please support your child in checking they have logged on.

It is expected that children will join for all of these meetings.

The Government expectation is 3 hours a day remote learning for primary aged children. Whilst this time round we expect the work set to be completed, it still shouldn't be stressful. Make sure your child has plenty of breaks over the course of the day and if anything is too tricky let the teacher know rather than struggling on in silence. The children in school will be completing the same or similar work to the children at home.

School times

For the children at school the times are 8.55am – 3.30pm. This is back to original school times because we do not need the staggered start times due to the reduced number of parents and it means that siblings and parents are not waiting on the playground. Drop off and collection points are on the main playground for Yrs. 1-6 and round the back of the school for FSU.

Children should only be in school for the days and hours parents are working. If you finish work before 3.30pm it is important that you come and pick your child up as soon as you finish. Just come to the office to collect them. The same applies if you have a day off but your child was booked in, please just ring the school and let us know your child won't be in. It is really important that everyone supports us with this as the less people in school the safer we all are.

Uniform

For children in school as it is learning as usual (as much as possible) please make sure they are wearing their school uniform every day. Please can they wear trainers with the uniform so they can be taking part in regular exercise.

It is cold in classes at the moment because we are having to keep the windows open to keep the rooms well ventilated. Please ensure your child has plenty of layers on and they must have a coat with them.

We ask that the children bring in a pair of welly boots in a bag. This is because we don't want to mix classes at playtimes so if children have wellies then where possible we can use the field.

Lunches

For children in school from Monday you can book a school lunch. This must be booked by 8am in the morning on ParentPay.

For Free School Meals (not universal school meals) our school lunch provider will be providing free school meals for you. We will be in touch separately about this.

If your child is not attending school during the lockdown period, please cancel any lunch bookings that you have made.

Breakfast and After School Club

Sadly, our Breakfast and After School Club will have to finish at the end of this week. It will remain closed until lockdown is lifted. We are very sorry for any inconvenience this causes our critical workers.

Once again, please cancel any bookings you have made for the clubs from Monday 11th January onwards. We will cancel bookings made for this week (Tuesday to Friday) for those whose children were not in school.

Reading books

Reading is one of the most important things your child needs to continue to do over lockdown. Classes will have allocated days when we will leave books outside the office for you to come and change them. Class teachers will give more details over Google Classroom but

they will request that you let them know in advance if you are coming up on the selected day so they can make sure the right level books are put out.

Resources to support Mental Well-being

On our website there is a tab titled Coronavirus information and remote learning. This contains lots of links to support both children and parents.

It also contains lots of other activities such as for PE which might be useful.

I will continue to keep you updated with any further changes or as updated guidance is released.

In the meantime if you have any concerns please contact us at admin@stjo.uk or phone 01395 264875

Best wishes

Nicky Taylor-Bashford