



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Regents Gate
Long Causeway
Exmouth
Devon
EX8 1TA

Headteacher: Mrs N Taylor-Bashford

Tel: 01395 264875

5th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a strange week at St Joseph's.

Whilst it has been lovely to have a few more children back, it is certainly nothing close to back to normal. It has been good that all our careful planning of groups and distancing etc. is working but it is still very strange. Thank you for all your support in following the procedures we have put in place.

We have been able to welcome back our Year 6s this week and it has been lovely to see them, albeit at a distance. I have found it very odd having to stay in the corridor and talk to them rather than be able to go into their groups.

The children have had a good week. They have been enjoying catching up with some of their friends and seeing the teachers and teaching assistants. The teachers have loved seeing the children back and hearing about all the things they have been doing and learning during lockdown. Whilst things maybe different it is lovely to hear more chatter and laughter back in the school.

At the moment unfortunately we still do not have any scope to invite more year groups back as we have a very large number of key worker children. I will keep you posted of any changes in guidance.

We are constantly juggling the rota as key worker children are part-time so please can we remind parents to send their children in just for the hours they are working. It means for example if a child is in Mon-Wed, we can then offer a place to another child Thurs-Fri. Whilst we are having to keep children in their groups we can go up to 15 across the week if necessary.

Please can I also remind you that yr 6 start at 8.45am and finish at 3.15pm whereas keyworker groups are 8.55am – 3.30pm. Please can you drop off and collect promptly.

I appreciate this can be difficult if you have a child in yr 6 and in a key worker group but if you have a child in each then please collect your yr 6 child at 3.15pm and then if you walk down to the key worker group if the teacher sees you out on the playground they will send your other child out to you.

For parents who are dropping off to FSU keyworker groups in the morning please can you keep your child with you whilst you are waiting to go in. We are conscious of trying to keep the two different groups of children separate.

I have already written to the year 2 and 3 parents but I want to let you all know that after much consideration we have decided that from September we will be merging the Year 3 and 4 classes. This means our current Year 2 and 3 will become one class.

I am sure you will appreciate that sustaining a class of 17 and a class of 13 is not financially viable.

However, having a class of 30 gives much more scope for wider friendships and group work. We have looked and carefully plan the curriculum to ensure both year groups receive the learning they need.

All other year groups will stay as single year groups as they have bigger numbers.

This does mean that sadly Mr Empson will be leaving us at the end of this term. I'm sure you will be as sorry as we are to see him go. He has been a great asset to the school and will be sorely missed.

I would also like to say a big thank you for all the kind, supportive messages we have had from parents recently. I know we are doing our very best but to know that we have your ongoing support makes all the difference.

Have a good weekend

Best wishes

Nicky Taylor-Bashford