



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

Headteacher: Mrs N Taylor-Bashford

Tel: 01395 264875

25.2.2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week the Prime Minister announced that Primary Schools will re-open to all pupils on Monday 8th March. We are delighted to hear this news and are fully prepared for this to happen. We have missed them.

We recognise that whilst many parents will be really pleased that schools are re-opening, for some this brings anxiety. We would like to reassure you that the safety of our school community will continue to be our top priority.

The information below is to remind you of the processes and procedures to help protect our community. This is largely unchanged from the approach at the start of the year to ensure things area as familiar for your child as possible.

Most importantly, we are continuing to follow the Department for Education guidance for effective infection protection and control.

This involves:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- cleaning hands more often than usual
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces
- minimising contact and mixing of staff and children by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times).
- active participation in Track and Trace
- no whole school assemblies or gatherings or crossing of bubbles
- good ventilation

If someone has symptoms:

If a child or adult has symptoms they must not come onto the school site. They should arrange for a test and isolate.

If a child or adult develops symptoms whilst in school they will be safely removed from the classroom and taken to an isolation area. In the event of a child developing symptoms we will notify parents/carers and ask you to collect them straight away.

We ask that where possible children are tested so we can rule out any potential cases or isolate classes in the event of a positive test. It is an expectation that everyone engages with NHS Track and Trace.

If a child or adult tests positive for Covid and has been in school, the children and staff in that

bubble will be notified and will need to self-isolate for 10 days. The school will work with Public Health with regards to necessary actions.

We require parents to inform us immediately of any symptoms, tests or positive results within their family or contacts.

Testing:

Staff will continue with the twice weekly Lateral Flow tests.

There are no current plans for routine testing of children in Primary Schools. If your child develops Coronavirus symptoms, then you should arrange for them to have a test.

Classes and Bubbles:

In order to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus children will stay in their class groups with the exception of FSU. Reception and Nursery will work as a bubble due to the layout of the unit.

It may at times be necessary due to staffing to mix classes and create a larger bubble at break or lunchtimes.

If we have to do that the bubbles will be: Year 1/2, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6.

Start and finish times

The government advises that staggered start and finish times are used to help stop bubbles coming into contact with each other. Therefore we will be operating staggered start and finish times.

	Start time	Finish time
Year 5 and 6	8.45am	3.15pm
Reception	8.45am	3.15pm
Siblings of Year 5, 6 and Reception	8.45am	3.15pm
Year 1-4 (with no siblings in R, 5 or 6)	8.55am	3.30pm
Nursery	9.00am	3.15pm

The above are as the Autumn term but please note **the change for siblings of Yr 5, 6 and Reception class**. So for example if you have a child in Year 5 and a child in Year 2, you drop the Year 5 child into class at 8.45am and then go straight down and drop your Year 2 child off. You don't wait for 8.55am. At the end of the day you would collect the Year 5 child and then go straight to collect the Year 2 child. This will result in less people waiting on the playground. These staggered starts and finishes only work as long as everyone arrives and leaves promptly.

If your child does not start until 8.55am and finishes at 3.30pm it is really important you do not arrive early.

Please ensure when you are on the playground you socially distance on the yellow spots and keep your child next to you. We also ask that if possible you wear a mask when coming onto school property.

Attendance:

The Government has stated that attendance in school is mandatory again from 8th March. This is for all children except those with a shielding letter. If your child has a shielding letter please let the office know as soon as possible.

In class:

Class teachers and teaching assistants will remain within their assigned class where possible. Government guidance says staff can move across classes but we will try to keep it at a minimum.

If staff need to work across classes they will need to remain at a distance of 2m wherever possible.

In class the older children can sit next to each other but they will be in rows forward facing rather than face-to-face in groups. The older children will have their own resource pack of whiteboards, pencils etc. to minimise contact. Resources that are shared will be cleaned regularly.

Doors and windows will be kept open as much as possible.

Movement around school will be reduced so school library books will be kept in classes rather than the children all accessing the library.

Outside:

The playground and field will continue to be zoned so classes can be outside without mixing wherever possible.

Unfortunately our wooden trim trail will need to remain closed off but the new playground equipment will be used by one class per week.

Lunch:

School Meals will continue to be available. All school meals need booking on ParentPay up to 8am on the day. For Reception, Year 1 and 2 school meals are free. Nursery, Year 3 and upwards are £2.35 and must be paid for when you book the meal.

Bringing items into school:

We will continue to minimise the number of items that are transferred between school and home. Children should only bring in what they need: coat, book bag, reading book, lunch and water bottle. Please do not send in any toys from home.

PE kit & Forest School clothes:

Children will come into school wearing their PE kit or Forest School clothes on set days. Teachers will let you know which days these are. School uniform and school shoes (no trainers, heels or boots) are to be worn on all other days.

Medication:

If your child requires any medication this must be given to the office and a form completed. Please remember to bring any epi-pens or inhalers to the office on the first day back.

Communication:

Staff are being asked to socially distance and should remain 2m away from other adults. You can have a brief chat at the end of the day with the teacher but if you need a longer discussion please arrange for a phone call. Parents are not allowed on the class patios at the moment.

We are only allowing one adult in the office at a time so whilst you are welcome to come in please wait outside until the office is free. Alternatively, please feel free to phone or email.

Face coverings and hand sanitiser:

Current guidance still says face coverings in schools are not recommended for children. Children cannot bring their own hand sanitiser to school, we will provide it.

Adults in school will be wearing a face covering outside classrooms. If they wish they can wear them in classrooms as well if social distancing cannot be maintained.

Breakfast and After School Clubs:

Breakfast and After School Club will start again on Monday 8th March. It will continue to run from the school hall as before.

Children attending Breakfast or After School Club will be required to stay in their class groups in the hall so as not to cross bubbles.

We will not currently be running any other after school clubs for the time being.

School trips:

School trips are a big part of St Joseph's but at the moment unfortunately they are not possible. For the summer term, if we are able to do any trips, they will only be trips within walking distance. These will all be risk assessed to check they can be carried out with the necessary protective measures in place.

I hope this offers you reassurance about all the planning we are putting in place to do our best to minimise risks to our school community for 8th March.

I will continue to update you if any guidance changes.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to ask.

Best wishes

Nicky Taylor-Bashford