



St Joseph's
Catholic Primary School



14 July, 2020

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of this academic year I am pleased to be writing to you of our plans for a full re-opening of school in September 2020.

We are looking forward to welcoming ALL our children back to school. We must, however, make sure that this is done in such a way as to keep everyone safe and well, with appropriate measures in place in line with government guidance to prevent transmission of coronavirus.

The measures put in place to maintain social distancing and good hygiene will help reduce the risk of transmission and it is *essential* that everyone follows these.

Staggered start and finish times to the school day

Children in different year groups will have different times to start and end the day.

| | <u>Start</u> | <u>End</u> |
|------------|--------------|------------|
| Yr 5 and 6 | 8.50 am | 3.10 pm |
| Yr 3 and 4 | 9.00 am | 3.05 pm |
| Yr 1 and 2 | 9.10 am | 3.00 pm |
| EYs | 9.15 am | 3.00 pm |

It is essential that families keep to these times in order to reduce congestion on the yard at the beginning and end of the school day.

Please consider dropping your children off at school, particularly if you have children in different year groups. Parents/carers are asked not to wait on the yard (to see their child enter the school building), but to leave them in the care of staff who will be on duty on the yard to supervise children from 8.45 am.

If parents do remain on school premises then they are to remain in the football yard and not to enter the main yard.

Please do not arrive early to collect your child at the end of the day. There will be a one-way system in place. Parents are to enter by the main gate off **Bishop's Road**, and wait on the football yard. As children are brought out of school by staff, parents are to collect their child and leave by the gate onto **Armstrong Road**.

Living, Learning and Loving together with Christ



Spirituality,
Formation and
Education Service

in the



Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle



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Breaktimes and Lunchtime will be staggered to ensure classes maintain 'social distance' from each other. This means there will be no more than 2 classes on the yard at any one time and only children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 will be able to use the Hall at lunchtime.

Key Stage 2 (Year 3 - 6) will have a packed lunch which will be eaten in their classroom. Children may bring their packed lunch in their lunch box. Children entitled to a Free School Meal will be provided with a school packed lunch unless parents tell us that they wish to provide their own.

Children will be given a reading book on a Monday which is to be returned to school on a Friday. Children are **not** to bring their book bag to school every day.

Homework will be given out on a Monday to be returned by Friday.

Children are asked to wear clean uniform each day. We do not expect families to buy extra uniform; instead, we would urge families to make use of the stock of good quality uniform which children have outgrown, that has been handed back to school. Please speak to your child's class teacher to access this uniform.

All staff are working very hard to ensure that your child is able to return to school safe and happy. We know that children may be anxious about returning to school, to being in their new class with new staff. Whilst it is natural to feel nervous we also want children to feel excited about coming back and seeing all their friends.

Some things in school may appear to be different but other things are just the same - the staff who are looking forward to seeing the children back in school, happy to see their 'old class' and no doubt wondering 'how they've grown!' as well as looking forward to getting to know their new class, (although they have already heard such a lot about them from their previous teacher!).

The work we do in class will be a little different as we are planning a 'recovery curriculum' to catch up on what has not been done in the previous year, whilst still moving forward in our new year.

As parents will not be able to speak with staff on the yard at the end of the day, staff will contact parents using Class Dojo at the end of each week to let them know how the children have settled into their new class. Please ensure you are signed up to Class Dojo. If you wish to speak to the class teacher then this must be by pre-arranged appointment.

Parents are asked not to come into the school building but to contact the school office by email or telephone. If the query cannot be dealt with using email/telephone then an appointment must be made.

We expect these measures to be in place for a number of weeks. We will, however, keep everything under review to ensure we are following Government guidance and we will keep you updated as and when necessary.

It is vital that families notify school **immediately** if a child or member of their household displays any symptoms of coronavirus (high temperature, cough or loss of sense of smell/taste).

If a child displays symptoms at school then parents will be notified. Parents will be asked to request a test <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> or <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/> or order by telephone via NHS 119. The child must self-isolate for 7 days. Other household members will need to isolate for 14 days from the day the symptoms first presented. If a negative test result is confirmed then the child may return to school.

If your child is not able to attend school, the school office **must** be informed as to the reason why. School must be contacted before 9.10 am where possible. We have the answering service to enable messages to be left. Please call 0191 2739063 and select option 1. Please ensure you speak slowly and clearly, stating your child's name, class and reason for absence.

Please ensure that the school office is notified of any changes of contact details. (email: office@stjosephsrcprimary.co.uk or telephone 0191 2739063).

Breakfast Club / After school clubs will be reviewed once school is fully open.

We have produced 'summer homework' packs for all children. These are available from our website or from the school office from Wednesday 15 July, 2020. There are also details of the 'summer reading challenge' on our website with information on how to access free e-books. Remember - reading is the key to all learning!

When your child returns to school, please return any home reading / library books that they have had over the last few months.

Of all the important things that children go to school to learn, reading comes top of the list. Learning to read takes practice. Lots of practice. Please try to find time for two key activities: listening to your child read and reading to your child.

We wish all our Year 6 children much happiness and success as they move on to their next school in September. I am sure all of the children leaving us will thrive and we wish them good luck as they embark on the next part of their learning journey.

Thank you to all of the staff for their hard work and commitment to the children during the last few months. Thank you to all of the families and Governors for the kind words and support we have received during this term. It has been very much appreciated by all of the staff.

We wish you a safe, healthy and happy summer break and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school at the start of the new school year - **Tuesday 8 September, 2020.**

With very best wishes,

God Bless

E. Mathews