



St Joseph's
Catholic Primary School



1 March, 2021

Dear Families,

I am very pleased and happy to be writing to you of our plans for a full re-opening of school on Monday 8 March, 2021.

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.

Most of these measures were in place in the Autumn Term and worked well; we had only 2 instances when one of our class 'bubbles' had to close.

We need to maintain our vigilance and ensure we implement the measures effectively in order that all children and staff stay well.

Following a review of the Autumn Term and what has worked well in the first half of the Spring Term during partial opening of school, and in line with DfE Operational Guidance for Schools, we have made some slight changes to our control measures and arrangements.

Use of face coverings

Children in primary school do *not* need to wear a face covering. Most parents/carers have been wearing a face covering when coming to school. We are now asking *all adults* who come onto the school premises to wear a face covering (unless exempt).

Start and finish times to the school day

At the beginning of the school day **all doors will open at 8.45 am**. Children will be able to go straight into class having being greeted by one of the staff on the yard.

Remember, school starts at **8.55 am** so please make sure your child is in school by this time.

Parents/carers are to remain in the football yard. Please do not to enter the main yard and remember to maintain social distance from other parents.

Living, Learning and Loving together with Christ



Spirituality,
Formation and
Education Service

in the



Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle



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At the end of the day classes will be dismissed at the following times

Yr 5 and 6	3.10 pm
Yr 3 and 4	3.05 pm
Yr 1 and 2	3.00 pm
EYs	3.00 pm

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

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**.

This one-way system allows staff to identify the adult collecting the child whilst maintaining a safe social distance. The safety of the children is paramount therefore we must insist that all families follow the one-way system. (An exception is made for those families with younger children who use prams/pushchairs)

Breaktimes and Lunchtime arrangements will be the same as they were in the Autumn term. Children in Early Years and Year 1, 2, 3, 4 will be able to use the Hall at lunchtime. Yr 5 and 6 will continue to have their lunch in the classroom.

UNIFORM

Please send your child to school with a coat and waterproof footwear so that they can still enjoy playing out even if the weather changes.

Please encourage your child to wear their uniform every day and ensure that appropriate footwear is worn for school. In the interests of Health and Safety no jewellery is to be worn at school (if earrings are worn, small stud earrings only are permitted. These must be removed or covered for PE). Children with long hair must have it tied back. Please note that shaved patterns/styles in hair are not appropriate for school.

We take great pride in wearing our uniform and being good ambassadors for St. Joseph's.

PE

Our PE timetable starting from **Monday 8 March, 2021.**

Year 1	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 2	Thursday
Year 3	Tuesday
Year 4	Monday and Tuesday
Year 5	Monday and Tuesday
Year 6	Monday and Tuesday

On the days your child is having PE please send your child to school **ready for PE**. This means they need to wear plain dark shorts/plain white t-shirt/school sweatshirt.

As they will be doing PE outside (weather permitting) children may wear plain jogging pants. Please ensure your child is wearing appropriate footwear for PE (sandshoes/trainers).

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.

As parents will not be able to speak with staff on the yard at the beginning/end of the day, contact can be maintained using email, TEAMS or by telephone as it has been during Spring 1 term when school was partially open. 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 or <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested19/testing-for-coronavirus/> or order by telephone via NHS 119.

The child must self-isolate for at least 10 days from the day after the start of their symptoms or the test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test result. Other household members will need to isolate for 10 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.

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

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.

An AMAZING Offer!

Some of you may remember Mr. Kevin Foster who has provided St. Joseph's with many memorable moments from our residential visits to Berwick, Boggle Hole, Buttermere and London with his company Explore4All.

Following the Covid-19 lockdowns Mr. Foster is no longer operating Explore4All.

However, this does not mean we will not be working with Mr. Foster in the future. We look forward to working with him in his new venture, 'Team Challenge Adventures'.

As he is no longer operating Explore 4All, Mr. Foster has very kindly offered his stock of waterproofs and walking boots to the families of St. Joseph's.

If you would like to take up this offer of waterproofs (jacket and trousers) and/or walking boots for your children, please contact the school office by email or telephone to arrange collection.

Please remember to check the school website regularly for updates. The reviewed Risk Assessment is on the school website for information.

With very best wishes,

God Bless

E. Mathews