



St Joseph's
Catholic Primary School



Dear Families,

23 March, 2021

This week's statement to live by is

I can recognise comfortable and uncomfortable feelings

As we begin the third week of being fully re-open I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your patience and co-operation as we continue to follow our new ways of doing things.

We are delighted at the way the children have returned to school. They have shown great enthusiasm and happiness at being back at school with their friends. This is a lovely reminder of how school is a special place for everyone.

Huge credit, of course, goes to our wonderful staff who continue to nurture and care for the children but also to parents and families for reassuring and preparing the children so well for their return. We appreciate it very much.

Beginning / End of School Day

We have been asked by the Local Authority to remind families about the importance of following COVID-19 safety measures at the beginning / end of the school day.

Our new opening arrangement at the beginning of the school day is working very well. All doors open at 8.45 am allowing children to come into school in a calm and orderly manner whilst also reducing congestion on the yard.

Please can we remind families that children are to be brought to school / collected by 1 adult member of their household. This will help reduce congestion on the yard, particularly at the end of the school day. Please take advantage of the green space to maintain social distancing from other adults.

Once younger children have been collected families **MUST** return to wait on the green area, socially distanced from others, until older children are brought onto the yard.

Thank you to all families for following the one-way system for leaving the yard at the end of the school day. Please be mindful of social distancing and leave the school grounds promptly after drop-off and collection. Thank you.

These arrangements will remain as long as they are seen to work well. Your co-operation is essential and greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Living, Learning and Loving together with Christ



Spirituality,
Formation and
Education Service

in the



Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle



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Reporting COVID

A reminder that if your child or any member of your household develops symptoms of COVID-19, please **do not send your child into school**. Children should only return when a negative test result for those displaying symptoms has been confirmed or at the end of an isolation period following a positive test result.

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 any child in school tests positive then please inform school as soon as possible. If a child tests positive over the weekend, please contact school using covid@stjosephsrcprimary.co.uk email address. We will need this information in case the child had been in close contact with staff or other children in the class resulting in them possibly having to self-isolate.

If a child displays symptoms at school then parents will be notified.

Parents will be asked to request a test <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/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 8.45 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. It is vital at this time that we are able to contact parents in the event of a child becoming unwell.

Team Challenge Adventure Days

We are delighted that Mr Kevin Foster, who many of you will know provided us with many wonderful memories from residential visits, has set up a new curriculum offer 'Team Challenge Adventure Days'.

Children in Year 5 will be participating in a Team Challenge Adventure Day on Thursday 25 March, 2021.

Their challenge... 'Mountain Survival'

Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain, and it's the expedition of a lifetime for our young mountaineers. They'll need all their powers of concentration completing tasks to win flags throughout the day in order to be the first team to reach the summit!

Atkinson Road Primary School have kindly agreed that we can use their school field for the Team Challenge Adventure Day.

All classes at KS2 (Yr 3, 4, 5, 6) will enjoy a 'Team Challenge Adventure Day' in the summer term.

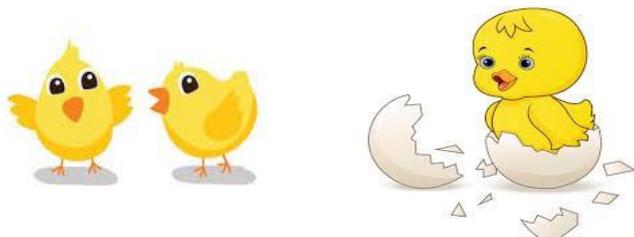
Open Evening

As you know we usually have an open evening for parents/carers at this time of year. As we are unable to meet in person, all families will be offered a telephone appointment with their class teacher on 29 March, 2021.

This will be an opportunity to discuss your child's well-being, work and progress. Please look out for the letter and return the reply slip promptly thank you.

'Eggciting' New Arrivals

On Monday 15 March, we took delivery of 10 eggs and all have hatched! 10 out of 10, wow! 10 very cute chicks are enjoying lots of fuss and attention from everyone in school.



And finally... a couple of reminders

Nut Allergies

We have some children in school with severe nut allergies. With more children eating packed lunches from home in school alongside children in their class, can I please remind parents that **no** snack or packed lunch containing nuts is brought into school. Thank you in advance for your support.



Reading Books



If you have any school books at home please return them to school. We know that families appreciated being able to access reading books as part of the remote learning offer during the spring term. However, we do need all reading books returned to school. Please look under the beds, behind the sofa, in the cupboards and return any you find! Remember book bags are to come into school on Monday and Friday only. Thank you.

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

With very best wishes,

God Bless

E. Mathews