



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School  
Bristol Road  
Portishead  
North Somerset  
BS20 6QB  
☎ 01275 848367

Headteacher: Mrs E Jackson/ Mr G Bath  
E-mail: [office@st-josephs.org.uk](mailto:office@st-josephs.org.uk)  
Website: [www.st-josephs.org.uk](http://www.st-josephs.org.uk)

Friday September 4th 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been lovely to see all the children back to school; our attendance for the first day was almost 100% with just a few children having to quarantine, we are of course waiting for our new reception children to start on Monday. It has been a very long time for some of you, so I am so grateful that you have put your trust in us, we will do our very best to keep your children as safe as we can possibly can. Thank you again for everything you did during lockdown and getting your children ready for school.

I was so happy to lead a 'bubble' assembly yesterday with the three different groups of children. There were so many happy shiny faces in the hall. During the assembly we thought about how Jesus could help us along our path this year and how he could help us to go in the right direction by listening to him. Last year the children designed some banners which we have in the hall and outside the school. This reflects our behaviour policy and our school ethos we talked about these values and what it meant for everyone in our school family.



***"Together we love, together we hope, together we learn."***



## **Start and end of the school day**

Thank you for being so patient as we try to work through the safest way to drop off and pick up the children.

We would ask that Year 5 and 6 children continue to be dropped off via the side car park or walk through the pedestrian gate for an 8.20am start. There will be no parking in this car park. Children can be picked up at 3.00pm (2.45pm on Friday) via the same way either a drive by pick up or walking through the pedestrian gate to pick up your child. Children in Years 5 and 6 can walk home, please let the office know by e mail if you prefer this option.

Years 3 and 4 can be dropped off at the big double gates (by the infant playground) in the morning at 8.20am. In the afternoon, to avoid congestion, parents may pick up at 3.00pm (2.45pm on Friday) as normal coming onto the playground and picking up from the class room.

Years 1 and 2 can be brought onto the playground via the pedestrian gate (by the infant playground) at 8.30am and picked up from the classroom at 2.50pm (2.30pm on Friday).

When the Reception class start full time they can come through the double gates (by the infant playground) at 8.30am and pick up at 2.50pm (2.30pm on Friday).

**We always welcome feedback from parents so we can work together to improve things. Remember to socially distance when you are waiting to pick up or drop off.**

## **Coronavirus news**

An extract from the latest letter from the health department to schools can be seen below, the department are very clear about who should be tested for the virus. If a member of staff or a child tests positive for the virus then the rest of the bubble should NOT be tested unless they display symptoms. The department of health have also provided us with contact details should a child or member of staff test positive so we can get advice on whether or not we need to ask the whole bubble to self-isolate.

**'To ensure we identify those with coronavirus while avoiding a huge increase in demand for tests from people without coronavirus symptoms, we ask that you recommend to your pupils, students and staff who feel unwell, that they get tested if:**

- **they develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms:**
- **a high temperature**
- **a new, continuous cough**
- **the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell, or**
- **they are recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse)**

**If a pupil, student or staff member develops one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms described above, only they should be tested. There is no need for their households to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic. Unless a pupil, student**



**or staff member has one of the three main coronavirus symptoms; they should only be tested if instructed otherwise by the local authority, health protection team or their GP'.**

All the latest coronavirus/education news is on the school web site.

### **Lunch times**

At this present time Only Years R, 1 and 2 are having their lunch in the hall, we are providing a school packed lunch or children are bringing their own lunch. KS2 are eating in the class room. The children are sat in rows and are not facing one another to mitigate spread of infection. Next Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of September and subsequent Friday's until the end of September we will be offering a hot meal of fish and chips alongside the wrap option. This hot option can be ordered on the day, as normal. We are working with our catering provider to gradually increase the hot meal option.

### **Meet the teacher**

Normally we hold these meetings during the second week of term, we will hold these meetings virtually this year and we will need to organize the technology so we will let you know when they are going ahead.

### **New members of staff**

Mrs Grebenyuk - Reception SEN support  
Mrs Wlaznik - SEN school support  
Mrs Dearberg - Year 1 class teacher (Monday, Tuesday)  
Mrs Maslen - Front Office

### **School web site and e schools**

Please check the school web site for new dates that have been uploaded. Termly overviews for each class will be on the curriculum pages of the web site at the end of next week. Reception parents and new parents will get their e-schools log in by the end of next week.

### **Parent Pay**

The school uses Parent Pay as our cashless payment system. Reception parents and new parents will get their log in by the end of next week. This method should be used for all payments to the school including the After School Club.

### **After School Club**

Invoices for this term will be issued very shortly and will be payable on receipt.

### **Parent's evenings:**

Settling in and progress during term 1: Reception-Year 6  
Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> October these will be held virtually so they might be over a number of days rather than just 2 afternoons.

### **Praise assembly on Friday**

We are hoping to hold these every Friday with the whole school using technology so the children can be in their own class. We are looking at ways to involve parents either a live or recorded praise assembly.



### **School Uniform Reminder**

Summer uniform can be worn up to Friday 2nd October. If you are unsure of the uniform code there is a list available in the office and on the web site. Please make sure everything is named as it will go into the lost property box if it is left unnamed around the school.

PE kits can be worn into school when it is your child's PE day, your class teacher will let you know when these days are.

### **Safeguarding**

I know many of our current parents have children that have just transitioned to secondary school, this is also a useful link to our new Year 6 parents.

<https://www.annafreud.org/movingup/>

The Government have published a new Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 which is on the school web site under information/safeguarding. The school has a new safeguarding policy on the web site which reflects the changes. Please take time to read the updated safeguarding information.

### **Starting school September 2021**

If your child is 4 before the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 you can apply online on:-

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions) or they can contact the School Admissions Team for a paper application from 12<sup>th</sup> September. The closing date for reception applications is 23:59 on 15 January 2020. There are open afternoons when you can visit the school at 3pm on 24<sup>th</sup> September and the 19<sup>th</sup> of November, please contact the school office if you wish to attend. These will be socially distanced open afternoons and will take place after the children have gone home.

### **Free School Meals**

If your circumstances have changed or you are a new Reception parent on a low income you may be entitled to free school meals you can apply on line or come into the school office and we can help.

<https://www.gov.uk> > [Childcare and parenting](#) > [Schools and education](#)

Remember although your child may be entitled to Universal Infant Free School meals you can also apply if you feel you are eligible as the school also get support for your child to help with support teaching, equipment, subsidy for trips, music lessons, after school clubs and school uniform.

God Bless

Mrs Jackson and Mr Bath

**"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17).**