



St Joseph's Covid Update 6 27/1/21

Half Term

I need to write to you again as some of yesterday's update is already out of date. The government have announced that schools will not open during the half term holiday even for critical worker and vulnerable children. There will be no childcare provision during that week. Our Multi Academy Trust is still expecting Monday 22nd February to be a training day for teachers. If that is confirmed there will be no provision for children to attend school on that day and there will be no home learning set for that day either.

Free School Meals during the half term holiday will revert to a system organised by the Local Authority which I believe will be similar to the scheme that was in place at Christmas. Food parcels for free school meal children for the week beginning the 22nd February will need to be collected on Tuesday 23rd rather than the Monday as normal.

As was the case at Christmas I will need to be informed during the half term holiday if any child who has been in school develops symptoms within 48 hours of being in school. The guidance from the government states:

Where pupils or staff still attending their school test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) during the holidays, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, schools are not required to take any action. Staff, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. However, where pupils or staff still attending their school test positive having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

Please inform me at gillb@st-josephs.plymouth.sch.uk if your child becomes symptomatic within 48 hours of having been in school and you have booked a test for them. Once you have the result of the test please let me know that too.

Wider Opening of Schools

You may have heard that the Prime Minister announced today that the earliest that schools **could** reopen would be the 8th March. Hopefully the data will show the nation is in a much healthier state by the end of half term because the Prime Minister did repeat that schools would be given at least a fortnight's notice to plan for how any wider reopening may happen.

Screen Free Learning Day

On the Monday of the last week of term (8th Feb) all remote and school based learning will be tech free. The learning will not need to be handed in on that day but we would love to see some photos of children involved in their learning away from a screen. More details will be shared with you by individual teachers.

Receipt of Updates

I was informed by a parent this morning that she had not received yesterday's update but it had been shared with her by a group of parents associated with her class. I am tempted to say, "If you do not get this update let us know," but feel there may be a problem with that methodology. However if you are made aware of this update through some other way than getting an email please contact hawkenk@st-josephs.plymouth.sch.uk to let us try to resolve the problem. The first place to look is your junk or spam folders as any messages with multiple groups as the audience can automatically end up there. All updates are posted on the home page of the school website.

Best wishes

BJ Gill