



St Joseph's Covid Update 9 26/2/21

Dear Parents,

One week to go !

We are looking forward to welcoming all children back into school on Monday 8th March. Attendance from that date is compulsory. We are in the process of writing a new risk assessment to ensure that we can keep everybody as safe as we can. We are very aware that this is not a time to breathe a sigh of relief and think things are back to normal because the dangers of Covid are still very real. Very few members of the school community will have been vaccinated when we return and it is predicted that the mass return to school will result in an increase in the rate of transmission of infection. For the last few weeks staff have been undertaking testing at home twice weekly and this will continue. Secondary schools will be testing children in the first few weeks of the full return. Primary Schools will NOT be testing children in school. Likewise, secondary school pupils will be asked to wear face coverings in school. This is NOT a requirement for primary school pupils.

We will not know all details until we have carried out the full risk assessment process but we will be at least maintaining the safety measures that were in place in December. These will include:

- Children being taught in their class bubbles and not mixing at play or lunchtime
- Children will sit in rows so that they do not face each other (not in the Foundation Stage)
- Strict handwashing routines will be re-established
- Classrooms will be well ventilated
- Lunch will be eaten in classrooms
- One way routes will be established to support social distancing
- Any child showing Covid symptoms at home must not be sent to school and arrangements for testing should be made
- Any child showing symptoms in school will be taken to an isolation area until they are collected
- Staff will wear face coverings in communal areas of the school
- Parents will be asked to wear face coverings while on the school site
- Parents will be asked to adhere to social distancing while on the school site
- Only essential visitors will be allowed to enter the school
- Reading books will be quarantined before re-use
- Only essential items, ie a coat, lunch, drink bottle, should be brought into school from home
- Staggered start and end of day procedures 8.40am - 3.15pm for Foundation and Classes 1 & 2. 8.50am - 3.30pm for years 3-6. In December many Key Stage 2 children (who did not have siblings in Key Stage 1) were arriving at 8.40am. If your child walks to school on their own please make sure they time their walk so that they arrive for 8.50am.

- Uniform will be worn but PE kit is to be worn on days when a PE lesson is scheduled
- Water fountains are turned off so a named drinks bottle should be brought in
- If children are asked to self isolate then work will be posted on google classroom as it has been over the last few weeks. If a chrome book is needed to complete learning during an isolation period we will provide one.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will begin again on Monday 8th March. Children will be seated at a table with other children from their own class. Until the full risk assessment is concluded we will not know about after school sports clubs. When a decision is made you will be informed.

Uniform

Children will be required to wear uniform when they return. From the experience of some families whose children have been coming into school, many children have grown since December ! It might be worth having a quick check that your child's uniform still fits this weekend to allow yourself time to buy bigger sizes if needed.

University of Plymouth Research Project

We have been asked to help some final year students at the University of Plymouth with a research project including many schools across the city. The project is about how children get along with each other in primary school and looks at the issue of bullying in particular. The research is based around a questionnaire to be completed by children. The year groups who are invited to participate are **years 3,4,5 & 6 only**. The link below will bring you to the questionnaire. The first page is an information sheet followed by two consent forms, one to be completed by a parent and the other by the child. Once the two consent forms are submitted you will be issued with a code allowing you to access the questionnaire itself. The collection of data will begin on the 1st March and questionnaires can be completed up until the 14th March. If your child is in years 3,4,5 or 6 please encourage them to help with this research project.

[University Psychology Dept Research Questionnaire](#)

Tech Free Friday - return Chrome books please

Friday 5th March will be another non-screen based learning day. We had very positive feedback from children about the previous day and so will repeat it for the last day of home-based learning.

We were pleased to be able to support the home learning for many families by loaning out school chrome books during the lockdown. Obviously they will now be needed back in school. In order for them to be quarantined, charged and ready for use on the 8th we would like them all (including the chargers) to be returned by 2pm on Friday 5th at the very latest.

As the learning planned for that day will be non-tech learning, once Thursday 4th's lessons have been completed then chrome books can be returned. Details about tech free activities on Friday 5th March will be posted on your child's class webpage.