



St Joseph's Reopening Update 1 5/3/21

Dear Parents,

Home School's Out !

I am surprised the 70's hit 'School's Out' has not been re-released this week as there seems to be a feeling of great relief around the country that home schooling is over. A house point for any child who can tell me on Monday who sang that song which was released while I was in primary school.

In the spirit of re-releases most of the content in this update was also published last week. I thought it would be useful for you to have a reminder close to hand before the great handover of children from your care to ours on Monday. A second attachment to the email will be Frequently Asked Questions (and their answers) which will hopefully give you the information you need.

Covid Safety Procedures

The safety procedures that we kept strictly to in 2020 allowed us to have no outbreaks in school in that year. The main protective factors are hand hygiene, social distancing, ventilation and good cleaning regimes. These were well established before Christmas and we will be instilling good habits back into the children from Monday. Other protective factors we will employ 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
- Regular cleaning rotas are kept to
- 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. After school sports clubs will not start in the first two weeks. We will review the situation after that.

Uniform

I realise that obtaining new uniform that fits can be difficult for many reasons at the moment. It is still the expectation that all children who can wear the full school uniform should do so. However if trying to provide that uniform causes great difficulties for a family we totally understand that it is not your number one priority. If you do have a problem with an item of uniform please find what you have which will be the most suitable alternative (closest in colour and style) and allow your child to wear that instead.

Main Gate

The main pedestrian gate has been recently overhauled and a new safe access system has been put in. The gate no longer automatically opens so if you are calling at the gate, once the locking mechanism is released for you, you will need to push the gate open. Likewise, when leaving, you will need to pull the gate to open it. There is still a closing mechanism on the gate so you do not need to worry about closing it after you.

Text Messages

We have been advised that for data protection reasons it is better not to name a child in a text message. Although it may seem less personal, from now on we will just use your child's initials if we need to contact you by text.

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.

When I asked children in school if they had completed the questionnaire none had so if you can find the time please let your Key Stage 2 child complete the questionnaire.

[University Psychology Dept Research Questionnaire](#)

BJ Gill