



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
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Headteacher: Mr C Newstead



Thursday, 16th July 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

Thank you for all your positive contributions to our school throughout the year and especially during this time when we are all trying to stay safe because of coronavirus, which is still present in our area.

What a time it has been! None of us could have expected that our school year would have ended so suddenly, with school closing due to Covid 19. Many of our children will have never heard the word pandemic before. None of us have ever experienced a lockdown. There are many things that happened that we were not expecting or prepared for.

You have all done an amazing job in keeping everyone safe. None of our children have suffered from the ill effects of Covid 19. Your hard work at home has not gone unnoticed and your children will have benefited from your guidance, love and support. Since school closed you have had to adapt and live your lives in a way that keeps everyone safe and well physically, socially and emotionally.

I am delighted with all of our achievements this school year. We competed well at football, girls' football, boccia and seated volleyball (coming second in all of these competitions). We also competed in cross country and despite not being placed, our children showed determination and grit. Our Shakespeare performance received exceptionally positive reviews, with one comment being "Congratulations on a fabulously feuding, well rehearsed Romeo and Juliet by a very hardworking, supporting and talented ensemble."

Our children have enjoyed class trips out; a whole school visit to the pantomime; making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday; the lion dancers and a treat for St Joseph's Day. We were not able to have sports day, prize giving or our leavers' mass and assembly, but we have been safe.

I know that you are as grateful as I am to your teachers, teaching assistants and all the staff at our school. We are also grateful for the support that you have shown to St Joseph's. You are your children's teachers too.

When we do start in September, we will be well prepared to ensure that our children feel safe. Their emotional and physical wellbeing will be at the forefront of all that we do. We will also have a focus on academic studies, to ensure that pupils receive a well-rounded education.

Changes for September

There will be some changes to the school day, with some children arriving between 8.30 and 8.40 am, some between 8.40 and 8.50 am and others between 8.50 and 9.00 am. Similarly, we will have some children leaving school at 3.00 pm, some at 3.10 pm, some at 3.20 pm and others at 3.30 pm. You will be contacted individually about this as not all children from the same class will be leaving at the same time. We have considered family groups and those pupils who may be collected by people other than family members. I would ask that you keep to the times agreed for your children as we are attempting to reduce the number of people gathering at one time.

I would also ask that if your youngest child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, that you wait on the Infants' playground to collect your children. If your youngest child is in the juniors, please spread out between the car park and the bicycle shed to collect your children. As well as keeping the recommended 2 metres distance from others, please leave school once you have dropped off or collected your child/children. Messages for staff members will have to be given to the school office by phone or e-mail. Please be patient (especially in bad weather) as it may take longer than usual for us to assist children in and out of school.

From September 2020, more than in any other year, I am looking forward to seeing all of our children return. I have missed them all and I have missed seeing them working, playing and enjoying school together. We will welcome back pupils from Year 1 through to Year 6 back in school, full time from 2nd September. Our Reception Class will begin part time from 7th September for 2 weeks, then full time from 21st September.

Yours sincerely

C Newstead
Head teacher

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

