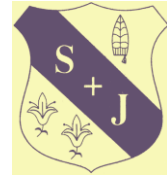




St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
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Tel No: 0151- 477 8990
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Headteacher: Mr C Newstead



Friday 18th December 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Autumn term 2020 has been like no other. We began the year with much hope and expectation and thanks to the hard work and dedication of all staff and the support and good wishes from parents and carers we have been successful in keeping everyone safe. As you know we have had no class closures despite most of the local schools having at least one class closed, some on more than one occasion and some closing fully for a time. Staff have been successful in providing a broad, balanced and engaging education for all of our children.

Our pupils, of course, have been the best measure of our success this term. Thanks to them following our school rules and being curious, imaginative, independent, perseverant, having a go, being decisive, concentrating, making links and being proud, they have achieved very well.

Despite their being a rise in the number of pupils and staff being absent due to having Covid 19 symptoms or isolating because of close contact with a positive case, attendance this term has been excellent and consistently above attendance for the whole of Knowsley. Attendance for the autumn term has been **96.8%** so far, which is outstanding! That is testament to the value that parents and carers place on their children being in school to receive the best possible education.

You have been very tolerant and understanding regarding the changes to school processes such as the closure of Before School Club, changes to the start and finish of the school day and no before and afterschool clubs. All of these changes will remain in place until further notice, although they are under constant review. Any updates will be communicated with you with plenty of notice. The hardships that we bear today will assist everyone in having a better tomorrow.

It has been widely reported in the news that there are changes to assessment and testing for 2021. At Key Stage 1 (Year 2) national tests in reading, maths, grammar punctuation and spelling (GPS) will be removed, as will teacher assessment in science. Teacher assessments in reading, writing and maths will still go ahead.

The phonics screening check for Year 1 pupils and any Year 2 pupils who didn't reach the expected standard in the autumn check this year, will take place.

At Key Stage 2 (Year 6) the GPS test and science teacher assessment will be removed but maths and reading tests along with writing teacher assessment will go ahead.

There will be no Year 4 multiplication test in 2021.

Thank you for your messages of support and your generous gifts. They have really helped us to get through a term which at times has been very uncertain.

Even though the global Covid 19 pandemic is still with us, the prospects for the future are brighter. More effective test and trace processes are in place and a vaccine to safeguard the population is available now and should provide further protection throughout 2021.

The positivity, understanding and resilience of carers, parents, staff and children should never be under-estimated. These qualities have been very obvious throughout this term and have given me much hope and optimism regarding St Joseph's in 2021 and beyond.

Hope and optimism are essential components of wellbeing. When nurtured, they bolster our resilience and act as powerful antidotes to depression and anxiety. By boosting our own hope and optimism, we develop our own psychological fitness and resilience and that of others.

Please see the bottom of this letter for advice regarding Covid 19, provided by Knowsley Local Authority.

As a Christmas present to you all from everyone here in school, on each class page on our website is a link to the Christmas performances this year. Despite there not being an audience, our staff and children have worked hard to rehearse and perform, which has added some much-needed Christmas cheer for us all.

Enjoy a well-deserved break. Have a safe and happy Christmas. With all of your perseverance, encouragement and smiles (which we can see beneath your masks and visors) I am sure that you are on the NICE list.

God bless.

C. Newstead



Communication of a positive case.

- Schools will only need to know of a positive test result for your child in the following two situations only:
 - a) Your child was in school for any period within the two school days (48 hours) before the school broke up and they developed symptoms (a new persistent cough; a high temperature or a loss of smell and taste) OR
 - b) Your child was in school for any period within the two school days (48 hours) before the school broke up and they returned a positive COVID-19 test from one of the Liverpool City Regions mass asymptomatic testing sites and has received a confirmatory PCR test
- **To inform school in the above situations a) and b) only** then email school using the following email address

stjoseph@knowsley.gov.uk

In cases of emergency, when you are unable to contact the school and strictly only to report possible school contact in the 48 hour window mentioned above you can contact 0151 443 4712 or email COVID19.SPOC@knowsley.gov.uk

This number is not a helpline and cannot be used for any other reason or for advice.

If you require any other advice over the Christmas period or for cases that do not overlap the period of your child being in school and the school breaking up please contact

<https://www.knowsleynews.co.uk/coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

- The council has also set up a [Community Support and Volunteer Line](#). It is helping Knowsley residents who need additional support during the outbreak and coordinating offers of help for those who are wanting to volunteer their time or services to help those in need in their local community.

Public Health Self Isolation Guidance:

Key summary points in relation to the new isolation guidance:

1. New self-isolation guidance for close contacts of COVID-19 comes into force on Monday 14th December 2020. As of Monday 14th December 2020, the isolation period will reduce to 10 days.
2. If you have been asked to isolate by an NHS T&T staff member or on the advice of Public Health England before Monday 14th December 2020, you

will only need to isolate for 10 days but this must include Monday 14th December 2020. For example, if you were told to isolate until 16th December 2020, you will be able to stop isolating on the 14th December 2020. If you were told to isolate until the Sunday 13th December 2020, you must continue with the full isolation period until Sunday 13th December 2020.

3. The NHS T&T App will not update with the new isolation periods until Thursday 17th December 2020. If you are told to isolate by the App from now until Thursday 17th December 2020, you can stop isolating when the countdown says “3 days remain”. After Thursday 17th December 2020, you will need to isolate for the full period notified by the App.
4. Isolation periods will take the day contact occurred as Day 0 of the isolation period. You must remain in isolation until Day 11. For example, contact on 11th December 2020 = Day 0; last day of self-isolation is 21st December 2020 = Day 10; able to resume normal activities on 22nd December 2020 = Day 11.

Testing Advice for anyone without Covid-19 symptoms:

SMART testing makes use of Lateral Flow Devices, more commonly known as rapid testing, and the tests should provide a result in around 30 minutes. By testing those who are not displaying symptoms, we can develop a better understanding of the spread of the virus in the community and also identify more people who are carrying the virus so that they can self-isolate (called case finding). Taking part in the mass testing pilot is completely voluntary. All tests are self-administered, and the process only takes a few minutes.

Where can I get tested?

If you don't have any symptoms, you do not need to make an appointment. Simply go to your nearest test site listed below between 9am and 6pm. All test centres will operate nine hours a day, seven days a week, Monday to Friday from 9am until 6pm and 10am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday. Opening times will be reviewed to ensure we are meeting demand.

The test centres in Knowsley are located at:

- Knowsley Leisure and Culture Park, Longview Lane, Huyton
- Volair Kirkby, Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby
- Volair Halewood, Baileys Lane, Halewood

How do the tests work?

Lateral Flow Tests are self-administered and very easy to use. You simply take a swab of the back of your throat and nose before putting the swab into a small vial. A fluid is then added to the vial and returns a result in around 30 minutes – although it can sometimes take a bit longer.

What happens if I get a positive result?

If your test comes back positive you should self-isolate immediately. You must also contact everyone in your household or support bubble as they will need to isolate too.

You need to self-isolate for 10 days from when you developed symptoms or from the date you had your test. Others in your household or support bubble will also need to self-isolate for 10 days (again from the date you developed symptoms or you had your test). Once isolating, you can book a confirmatory test online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119.

What happens if my test is negative?

It is important to remember that **your result only covers the moment in time when you took the test**. You are encouraged to do regular (weekly) tests. In addition, there is also the possibility of you being given an incorrect negative result.

Therefore, you must continue to follow COVID-19 guidance such as maintaining social distancing (that's a 2m distance between you and others), regularly washing your hands and wearing a face covering where advised.

