

March 12th 2021

St. Joseph's Junior School

MONDAY 15TH MARCH – RETURN TO SCHOOL (ALL PUPILS)

Dear all,

Next Monday will be exactly three months since the last day in school before Christmas for the majority of our children. This last year has been unprecedented; both challenging and difficult.

I want to thank parents and families for all the support and communication. Also the teachers who have had to adapt to remote learning methods, a range of digital platforms, recording videos and arranging meetings with their classes.

Not least the children themselves who have continued their learning in a very different format.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back and re-establishing their school routine and learning in class.

Please read the rest of the newsletter for reminders of the systems and routines we have put in place to keep everyone safe and well.

Morning routine

- School transport back to running normally.
- Breakfast club available between 8.10a.m and 8.30a.m.
- If not attending breakfast club arrive from 8.40a.m. to 8.55a.m and go straight to class through own entrance. Please don't arrive earlier as teachers not in their classrooms until 8.40a.m.
- Hand sanitise at gate or on entering classroom.



- Wear school uniform
- Only essential belongings as keeping in class. No toys, balls, etc.
- Mobile phones only if needed for walking home/ after school and must be given to the teacher on arrival to keep safe.
- Fully stocked pencil case (pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, colours)
- Personal water bottle every day.

Playtime and Lunchtime

- Year groups will play in their designated area when outside. We will provide footballs.
- Fruit snacks allowed for playtime.
- School dinners are available at the usual price following the LA menu. Monday 15th is Week 2 of the menu
- Children can bring packed lunch if prefer.
- Children will eat in their classroom with their own lunchtime supervisor unless the weather is good when they can eat packed lunches outside.
- Children are in the routine of regular hand washing and sanitising throughout the day and particularly before and after eating and playing outside.

Afternoon routine

- Collection times between 2.45p.m and 3p.m.
- Please don't come earlier as the children will still be working.
- Pick up from classroom doors.
- Adults must wear masks in the school grounds unless medically exempt.
- Adults must maintain 2m social distancing in the school grounds.
- Please don't congregate to chat outside the school.
- School buses will collect normally.
- Avoid car sharing as if Covid affects someone in a car then all have to self- isolate.

playing or having parties or sleepovers at this time.



Staffing

- We welcome Mrs Sian Smitham to Year 6 for the rest of the academic year.
- Mrs Smitham is covering Mrs Brady Saunders whose baby is due very soon. We wish her well.
- Mr Hopkins and Mrs Cudd make up the Senior Management Team to cover the deputy part of Mrs Brady Saunders position.
- If I am unavailable they will both be happy to help with any queries or concerns.

Additional information

- Our focus for the two weeks before the Easter holidays will be Wellbeing and re-establishing routines.
- Parents evening will take place in the Summer term (probably virtually).
- As well as looking after their mental health teachers will need to assess where the children are in their learning. They will use assessments to inform their future teaching and plan what children need to learn/recap on.
- All school staff are now carrying out twice weekly Lateral Flow testing results of which are reported to the NHS.
- A few staff have received their first vaccination.
- It is now advised that teachers wear a face mask at all times inside if social distancing from the children can't be maintained.
- Children do not have to wear masks.
- Please don't send birthday cakes in until we say otherwise. Similarly the Welsh Government have stated clearly that even though children are in school together they shouldn't be out

CORONAVIRUS

Please remember to continue to follow Public Health Wales Guidance outside of school to make sure we are all doing everything we can to keep the virus at bay.

Keep Wales safe:

- always observe social distancing
- wash your hands regularly
- if you are meeting one other household, stay outdoors and stay local
- work from home if you can

Stay at home if you or someone you live with has either:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- loss of smell or taste (anosmia)

Anyone can spread the virus

