



Celebrating over 75 Years of Independent Education in Nottingham

Head Teacher's Newsletter September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome Back

Welcome to a new school academic year, after what seems an eternity. I hope you are feeling refreshed after your summer break and the children are rested and raring to go. It's great to see them all back in school at last, looking very smart in their new school uniform. You will be delighted to hear that they are all settling in very well.

Grateful thanks to all staff who have worked very hard during the holidays to ensure the children return to a caring, supportive stimulating and above all, safe environment.

Covid News

I appreciate that following 'Lockdown', many of you will be anxious about a return to school, but rest assured that we have taken government advice very seriously and have the safety of the staff and children at the heart of our policy. You have already had a detailed letter regarding the changes we have made and there is also a copy on Class Dojo. However, should you require any other information, please ask Shirley on Reception, call or drop us a line.

As a reminder, I set out below the revised start and finish times we have adopted to help isolate the class safety bubbles and reduce the chances of infection.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Finish</u>
The Acorns	Reception	8.30 -	3.15-
The Chestnuts	Year 1/2	8.50	3.30
The Maples	Year 3/4	8.50 -	3.30 -
The Oaks	Year 5/6	9.10	3.45

Children arriving outside of their allocated time slots may have to wait either outside the school or in Breakfast Club.

Breakfast and After School Club

The government is encouraging schools to offer full wrap around care and, to this end, both Breakfast and After School Club will be operating normally.

ALL children, regardless of age may attend Breakfast Club from 7.30 am, the only difference being is that they will need to ensure they are staying in their safety 'bubble' and not mixing with children from other classes. To do this, socially distanced, separate tables have been allocated.

Staff News

Thankfully, there have been no changes to staffing over the summer and we start the year with our regular team.

Class Organisation

As a reminder, I set out below the arrangements for the new academic year, which takes account of class sizes, make up, gender and ability.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
The Acorns	Reception	Mrs Boyer/Miss Priest
The Chestnuts	Year 1/2	Miss Melvill- Smith
The Maples	Year 3/4	Ms Hardy/Mrs Cahoon
The Oaks	Year 5/6	Mrs Leverington/ Miss Kurd

Alongside Mrs Mason and Miss Priest supporting the infants, Mr Purdy will mainly support the juniors. Mr Purdy also retains his role as our Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator or SENDCo for short.

Notification of Absences

If your child is going to be absent or late please notify the school office on 9418356

We need prior notification of medical appointments, either by letter, telephone or via a direct message. All children leaving school early **MUST** be collected by a responsible adult.

Illness

Generally healthy children are expected to attend school. However, whilst mild coughs and colds are NOT a reason to stay at home, you must use your reasonable judgement or the advice of professionals when making that choice.

If your child, or any of your family, develop symptoms of Covid you must notify us **immediately** and self-isolate according to government directives.

Should a suspect or confirmed case arise in school, the child concerned will be immediately sent home and parents within their bubble informed. Closure of a bubble or the school will only occur following an 'outbreak' which is defined as two or more confirmed cases in one safety bubble.

Testing may also take place in school following an outbreak, either 'in house' or from a visiting medical team.

School Work and Isolation

If your child is unable to attend school due to the need to self-isolate, teachers may provide additional work to complete at home. Please contact the class teacher should the need arise.

Pencil Cases, Masks and Water Bottles

To limit the potential for cross contamination, please supply a pencil case and water bottle for your child's individual use. Hand sanitiser is available around school, but personal supplies would also be helpful. The latest advice from

Government is that children under the age of 12 should not wear masks in school.

Change of details

Many home/ school communications are now being sent out by text. Kindly ensure we have up to date phone numbers etc. and inform school of change of address/telephone number promptly. If you need to be contacted during the day or via our email/mobile messaging service, we need to have current details.

Thinking of leaving us?

Well, we certainly hope you won't but if you are, please talk to us first and allow us to try and resolve your concerns. Please also be aware that the notice period for the nursery is one month and a full term for the main school in writing, as detailed in the contract you signed on entry.

Twitter,

Facebook and

Textlocal

To our new parents and carers, you can follow us on Twitter using @StjosephsNG1, or find us on FB. We also use a text messaging service at certain times, so please ensure we have your correct contact number. Additional information is also available on the school website at:

www.st-josephs.nottingham.sch.uk



Start of Term Mass

Due to Covid restrictions, there will be no Start of Term Mass.



Progress Tests

During the course of each year the children will undertake a number of progress tests, usually administered by school staff or associated support staff. This enables us to target more accurately any areas of learning or development which may need some support. Please note however, the results of such tests are a snapshot of performance at one particular point in time and only reflect outcomes on that day. **Our first week of exams will take place starting Monday September 28th.**

Parent Consultation Evenings

Please note in the dates for your diary that we shall be holding our autumn parents' consultations on Wednesday 4th November between 3.45pm and 6.30pm. You will very shortly be receiving more information about this as the format will be radically different. We propose to hold them in the gym using a one group in and one group out system, during which facemasks must be worn. Do remember however that the time allocation remains at ten minutes per pupil. Following this, should you require longer, a separate telephone appointment may be made for another time. Available appointments will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Friends of St Joseph's

Due to current Covid restrictions, we do not expect to hold any PTA events this term. However, if you have been involved in this group in the past and would like to continue, or if you would like to become involved yourself, then please get in touch so we can keep you in the 'loop.' The PTA is vital to help raise funds for the school and provide the children with additional resources and opportunities. Your support in this is therefore greatly appreciated

Suggestions

Suggestions as to how we can improve are always welcome and these can be made in writing, by email or just by having a chat when you see me.



Nuts

To safeguard children with allergies, please may I ask that you do not send snacks into school that may contain nuts. As part of our healthy schools policy, the children should only be eating fruit at break times.

Clubs

Due to the need for isolated bubbles, there will be no additional clubs offered for now. However, other enrichment activities such as French, drama, music and dance (via Rattle and Roll) will still go ahead as these are class, rather than whole school based.

Music Tuition

Individual music tuition will resume in school as normal with social distancing and protective measures in place. Please note that a charge may be made for the tuition itself and/or the hire of the instrument. In all cases, any child who takes up a musical instrument will be expected to provide their own tuition book. This is because of limited school funds and issues of copyright. Please also note that any commitment made towards music tuition **MUST** be paid for in full and that refunds cannot be given even if the subsequent lessons are not taken.

Cathedral Parking

Please do not park in the Cathedral courtyard car park as this is private and may result in a fine or short term lock in. If you need a short term street parking permit, you will need to download the Ringo App with the school code of 18925.



Assemblies

Again, in accordance with Government directives there will be no whole school assemblies this term as they constitute a large gathering. However children's efforts will be rewarded internally and possibly posted on Class Dojo.

Class Dojo

Following its success during Lockdown, we plan to retain our Class Dojo Platform as a communication tool or in the case of a future closure. If you are new to the service, please contact the class teacher.

Attendance and Fines

Please remember that it is compulsory for healthy children to attend school. Despite concerns over the spread of Covid, more damage will be done in the long term by keeping your child away from their studies and friends. Non-attendance without good reason may therefore be liable to a fine, but this will only be done as a last resort.

Fund raising and Charity donations

It is doubtful that our annual fund raising and charity events such as the Macmillan Coffee Morning and Harvest Festival will happen this year and certainly not in their usual format. However, should the advice change, we will be in touch.

Uniform

May I please remind you that our uniform is not optional and that it is being strictly applied. This means that school shoes, not trainers, must be worn during the day and these should be sensible and fit for purpose. Equally, our uniform policy extends to coats, bags, our indoor and outdoor PE kit and even hair bobbles! Further guidance on our uniform policy can be found on the website. Please note: At this time of year, children should be in our summer uniform which changes to winter after the October half term.

Please wash all uniforms regularly to minimise the risk of spreading infection.

Bad Hair Day

Here at St Joseph's we are extremely proud of the way our children look. They are always smart, always polite and this is reflected in the atmosphere and working culture around the school.



Would you please therefore help us to maintain this, by ensuring your children continue to come to school with sensible hair styles as well as a smart uniform as detailed above.

Boggle Hole Residential

Regretfully the planned residential visit to Boggle Hole near Whitby has had to be cancelled and a refund will be made in due course. Should circumstances change nationally, we may be able to book another visit in the summer

Mobile Phones

Please may I remind parents of the need to follow our rules on the use of mobile phones in school which are clearly displayed on the window in Reception. After all, it is for the safety of all our children.

Lost Property

As in every school lost property is a huge problem. Please ensure all clothing is labelled and that no valuables are brought in as we cannot accept responsibility for them. Please also note that unclaimed property will be sent to charity at the end of each term.

Adults in School

Current restrictions mean that adults must remain outside the school building and only enter to make socially distanced payments. If you do need to enter school, please wear a mask.

Inset Days

May I remind you that Inset Days for this academic year have been planned for:

Wednesday 6th January 2021

Monday 19th April 2021

This means that only staff will be in school on these days.

Violence to staff

Please note, whilst we pride ourselves in being an open and approachable school, we do operate a non-aggression policy towards staff including zero tolerance to verbal and physical intimidation. Any member of the public or school community who does not respect this will be asked to leave the premises and further action may be taken depending on the nature of the abuse.

Finally

Because of Covid, this term is going to be very different from any experienced previously. Therefore, I ask you to bear in mind all the information this newsletter contains and act accordingly to limit the spread of this terrible disease. It is vital that parents and the school work together in close harmony for the benefit and safety of the children and, to this end, I sincerely thank you for your support and understanding during this difficult time.

Kind Regards

Mr A E Crawshaw - Head Teacher

