



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Rocky Lane, Nechells, Birmingham B7 5HA

www.stjosb7.bham.sch.uk
enquiry@stjosb7.bham.sch.uk



Head Teacher
MRS M. ASHLEY

Tel: 0121 464 8140
Fax: 0121 464 8145

Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents,

You will have heard about the Government's proposals to get children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 back into school as soon as possible after June 1st. This letter explains how we plan to do that at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School. I apologise that this will be quite a long letter, but there are many details to let you know about.

Before I begin, on behalf of all the Staff and Governors I would like to extend my condolences to those families who have lost loved ones to the virus. Be assured that we pray for you and your families in school, and will do our best to support your children when they return.

We will open for children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from Monday 08th June** and initially this will be for **all the children of parents who said 'YES' to their children returning to school this week**. If you said '**NO or POSSIBLY**' and you change your mind after reading this letter and decide, you want your child to return please do let us know no later than 12pm on Wednesday 03rd June via email to enquiry@stjosb7.bham.sch.uk or by phone call 0121-464-8140. We will then let you know a date when your child can return to school, but we will only allow them to come back when it is safe to do so. Also, if you change your mind at any point over the next half term please let us know by 12pm on a Wednesday and we will contact you with a date and time for when we can safely allow your child/ren to return to school.

School will continue to remain open from Monday 01st June to Friday 05th June for the children of Key workers who need it.

To ensure you have all the information you need about the reopening of school I have put some of the main information into a table to make it easier to read, the rest will be in bullet points.

School open Mondays to Thursdays for Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and Key worker children	✓
School open on Fridays for Key worker children who need it only	✓
Drop-off / Collection by an adult from your household	✓
School Office – telephone calls only	✓
Named Water Bottle (brought in to school)	✓
Own clothes (clean and changed daily)	✓
School to provide 60%+ alcohol hand-sanitiser for all pupils and staff to wash their hands with	✓
Soap and hot water will also be used for all pupils and staff to wash their hands with	✓

Children will be working in teams no larger than 15 , with the same adults where possible	✓
Children will not mix with children in other teams	✓
Children will have break times and lunchtimes with their teams and eat lunch in their classroom	✓
Start times and end times of the day will be staggered	✓
Break times and lunch times will be staggered	✓
Cleaning of the school will take place throughout the day	✓
Social distancing measures in place wherever possible	✓
Learning will take place mostly outside wherever possible	✓
Suntan cream should be applied before coming to school	✓
Children should come to school with a sun hat and cotton long sleeved clothing whenever the weather is nice	✓
School open to Years 2, 3, 4 and 5	X
School Office – parents coming in to school	X
Breakfast Club	X
After School Club	X
Tuck (at break for Yr6)	X
School Uniform	X
Parents gathering outside gates	X
Drop-off / Collection by an adult from outside of your household	X
Bring your own hand-sanitiser	X
Will parents be fined for their child not attending school	X

If you would prefer your child not to use the hand sanitiser please do let the school office know via email – enquiry@stjosb7.bham.sch.uk or phone call 0121-464-8140 and we will ensure your children always washes their hands with soap and water.

Here are some other key facts that you will need to know before we can re-open the school to any of the children:

- There will be supervised handwashing for the children on several occasions during the day. If parents wish, children may wear masks or gloves on the way to and from school. **The Government advice for both staff and children in school is that wearing masks or gloves is not recommended.** Children fiddle with masks and this means putting their hands around their faces far more – making it potentially more dangerous. Soap and water kills the virus, gloves do not – they give a false sense of security and touching your face with gloved hands is far more dangerous than touching your face with regularly washed hands.
- We will also be asking for parents to support these messages at home, by reminding the children – and supervising them – to wash their hands properly and regularly.



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- We will make sure that, as far as possible, children are spread out in the classroom and that close contact is kept to a minimum. However, I must be honest with all parents at this point. I cannot, and will not try to guarantee that 'social distancing' as we have come to know it will be achieved in school. Even with smaller groups, this is not possible and our youngest children will not be able to keep 2 metres apart from each other or their teachers.
- Parents will have the right to decide whether they think it is safe and appropriate to send their children back into school when we open for each year group. Any parent who does not send their child back to school before the Summer holiday **WILL NOT** be fined.
- Reception and Year 1 children must arrive between 08.45am and 08.55am. Children who arrive late will have to return home. We cannot risk children encountering other groups and the office will be closed, so parents will not be able to 'sign children in' late. Reception children will come into school through the normal morning gate and be collected from here at the end of the day. Year 1 children will come into school through the KS2 end of day collection gate and this will be where parents can pick them up at the end of the day.
- Reception children need to be collected between 2.45pm and 2.55pm. Parents will need to collect their children from the normal reception exit.
- Year 1 children need to be collected between 3.00pm and 3.10pm. Parents will need to collect their children again from the KS2 exit point.
- Year 6 children and KS2 Key Worker children must arrive between 09.00am and 09.10am. Children who arrive late will have to return home. We cannot risk children encountering other groups and the office will be closed, so parents will not be able to 'sign children in' late. Year 6 children will come into school through the KS2 end of day collection gate and this will be where parents can pick them up at the end of the day. The Key Worker children will need to come into school through the school's car park and enter the building through the Breakfast Club door and this will be where parents can pick them up at the end of the day.
- Year 6 children need to be collected at 3.15pm. Parent will need to collect their children from the KS2 exit point.
- KS2 Key Worker children need to be collected at 3.00pm. Parents will need to collect their children from the Breakfast Club door.
- As more children return to school the start and end times will be staggered even more and entry and exit points in school may change. When changes are to be made, I will write to you to let you know what they are.
- For anyone using public transport to get to or from school – please read the Government advice at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>
The advice from the government is to **try to avoid using public transport if you can.**
- Most of our staff will be returning to help teach these smaller groups, but we will have **no Reception staff. Children in Years R, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 will continue to have work set online** and Y6 children will continue to have **work set on Kidblog.**
- **School will not be open on Fridays.** This is to allow for more thorough cleaning and to give the staff time to set work online for the children, as well as planning and preparation.

- Parents will not be able to have the same casual 'drop in' conversations with staff at the beginning and end of the school day. **The office will be closed to parents, except by phone.** If you need to speak to a member of staff, it will either have to be by telephone, or by making an appointment so an appropriate time can be arranged to create a socially distanced space.
- Only one adult per child will be allowed onto school premises to drop and collect. **No parents will be allowed inside the school building unless by prior appointment.** This includes parents of children in Reception – we know that some children will be unsettled and could be upset when they return, but unfortunately, parents cannot come into class to help 'settle' them – as they will encounter other children.
- **Parents will be expected to keep a strict 2-metre social distancing when dropping off and collecting.** There will be chalked marked circles on the ground for you to stand in which will be 2 metres apart. We will also be asking parents not to meet and socialise by the school gates – because this will increase the risk of children encountering children from other groups.
- We will be doing everything we can to reduce the possibility of transmission of any infection between groups. Because of this, children must stay isolated from other children and adults outside their household when they are out of school. For example, if we discover that a child has spent the evening playing at their friend's house – who is from a different class group or different school, we will not accept them back into school for 7 days. Every parent plays a part in keeping every child in the group safe, and we cannot risk possible transmission from a person outside of the household and school group.
- **COVID-19 symptoms have changed; they now include a new and continuous cough, a high temperature and/or a loss or change in your normal sense of smell and taste.**
- **Children at school and school staff who display symptoms of COVID-19 are now eligible for a test. If a child displays symptoms in school, they will be isolated from their group immediately and the parent called to collect them. Children will not be permitted to return until they have the results of a test. In the case of a positive test, all other children in that group will have to isolate at home for 14 days.**
- Children in KS1 and those entitled to Free School Meals in Year 6 will have a packed lunch to eat in their classrooms, rather than a hot meal. Those not eligible for free meals in Year 6 will need to bring their own packed lunch or send in money for a packed lunch in an enveloped marked with their name on it.
- Children in Reception, Year 1 and those in Year 6 entitled to Free School Meals who are attending school will now have a packed lunch provided in school. For all other children who are not attending school and are entitled to Free School Meals, they will continue to receive the government vouchers.

Finally, I appreciate that this is going to be a difficult and an inconvenient time. Some parents will have to put up with later drop offs or earlier collections, no before or after school care, and siblings from different classes who are still at home. I accept that this may lead some parents to decide against sending their children back to school at the moment. However, a great deal of learning has been lost, and this is a good chance to get the children back into school routines before the Summer holiday. I am sorry that some parents will find these arrangements difficult, but please do remember that every decision we are making is based on trying to keep all of the children in school, and the staff who work with them, as safe as possible.

Keep safe, keep well.

God bless,

Mrs M Ashley