

Our Lady and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Telephone: (01709) 760084

Head teacher: Mrs H McLaughlin

Chair of Governors: Mr M Janvier

Friday 12th June 2020



Dear parents/carers,

From Monday 15th June, we will begin a phased return of groups of children starting with F2. If your child is in F2, Y1 or Y6 and you have already indicated that you wish your child to return, you should now have received a letter with more details. If you now would like your child to come back to school, you will need to give school at least a week's notice for us to make the necessary preparations. Please understand that all our arrangements are dependent on staff availability which can quickly change. **A bubble could be closed at very short notice if staff are not available.**

Home school learning will continue as before for all classes but with more teachers working in school, different members of staff may reply to emails. I know hard parents/carers and children are all working at home; please remember that both doing something is better than doing nothing but that some days are harder than others to keep home school learning going.

Although the government haven't announced their plans for schools in September, we are already thinking about what we can do to open up school to more pupils. We are looking at increasing washing facilities for children by installing sinks outside and thinking about how to extend our Forest School provision so that children can work outside more where the virus isn't as easily spread as indoors. You may have seen in the press that the government has announced summer catch up sessions for children, however a building programme has been planned for at Our Lady and St. Joseph's during the summer which will mean that school will be closed for the summer holidays.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs McLaughlin

New School Rules

To help children adapt to a different way of working in school, we now have some new school rules. We will teach children about social distancing and remind them to do so but we cannot guarantee that they will be social distant at all times.



Love one another.

- **I will not touch other people and try to keep my social distance from adults and children at all times**
- **I will wash my hands whenever I am asked to and after going to the toilet**
- **I will keep class equipment tidy and help to tidy up when asked**
- **I will keep to the areas my teachers say I can use at all times of the day**
- **If I sneeze or cough, I will do this into my elbow**
- **If I use a tissue, I will put it in the bin and wash my hands**
- **I will work as hard as I can independently**

Statement from Director of Public Health: Teresa Roche

The government confirmed that schools should begin to open up further places from Monday 1st June, starting with nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6. To support this, each school and early years setting has completed its own risk assessment to determine if, how and when it can safely provide these places and how many children in different year groups they can safely accommodate. The risk to individual children in attending school remains very low and we appreciate the significant benefits to children's health and wellbeing from getting them back to school as soon as possible.

The Council also fully supports the rights of parents and families to decide what is right for them and their children. What is right and safe for one family might not be for another. If a family is not comfortable sending their child to school at this time, or do not feel it would be safe for other family members, we respect their right to make that decision. We would advise any shielded children or children with shielded family members in their household or school staff who have been advised that they have an underlying medical condition that puts them at increased risk of COVID-19, that they should not attend school at this time.

We have seen a steady decline in the number of beds occupied by COVID-19 positive patients at the hospital since 23rd April. We are also monitoring the death certifications processed by the Council, and again have seen a steady decline in deaths occurring from COVID-19 which was at its worst in mid-April. The data we receive from Public Health England has shown that despite wider availability of testing, the number of new confirmed cases has also been consistently falling.

The opening of schools needs to be considered within the wider changes to government lockdown advice. I would like to take this opportunity to strongly urge our residents not to view children returning to schools as a signal that life has returned to normal. The further relaxation of lockdown that has been announced over the last week should also be responded to cautiously. It is vitally important that we continue to stay alert and take the steps recommended to control the virus including washing our hands regularly, and keeping a 2 metre social distance away from others in our everyday lives, in order to prevent an increase in local transmission rates.

This national NHS Test and Trace programme is welcomed and is essential in order for us to reduce virus transmission in Rotherham. Again, I would urge all our residents that if they have any symptoms of COVID-19, that they should immediately self-isolate and use the online system or call 119 to order a test.

Finally, I would just like to reiterate my caution to all our residents. Children returning to school is extremely important to their wellbeing and ongoing education. However, the government have been lifting other lockdown restrictions at the same time. In doing this, there is a risk that community transmission starts to rise again. I would urge you all to continue to do the things that keep us all safe – increased regular handwashing, limiting contact and maintaining a 2 metre social distance from others, working from home where possible and immediately self-isolating and using the NHS test and trace programme should you get symptoms, or if you are a contact of a case.

Thank you all for the role you are playing in helping us through this difficult time.

Teresa Roche, Director of Public Health
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
5th June 2020

Special Mention

F1

Alfie Jackson for his dot artwork and his video of his fantastic dancing.

Erin Walsh for her beautiful drawings, especially the one of her family.

F2

Saoirse Pearce for engaging with learning activities at home and practising her writing and letter formation.

Ronnie Jones for always being ready to learn and give his best in everything he does.

Y1

Maia Evans for working really hard to improve her reading at home.

Jacob Perkins for working really hard to improve his writing at home.

Y2

Harry for working hard at home and at school on all of his learning, including completing the Y2 Sumdog challenge this week!

James Casey for completing some really well-presented pieces of home learning including excellent work on maps for geography!

Y3

Isabella Hulse for using ICT creatively to complete home learning tasks and keep in touch with her extra curricular teams and clubs.

Isla Mortlock for completing a good mixture of artistic and written tasks for the new topic while also progressing her maths.

Y4

Ava Poole for making a protective mask with her gran.

Miška Malikova for her amazing ancient Egyptian work.

Y5

Ella Beard for displaying great independent learning when creating a PowerPoint about Ancient Egypt.

Ava Lockwood for demonstrating resilience by not giving up on her fractions work.

Y6

Sophie Spriggs for an informative report about Cleopatra.

Thomas Cosgrove for an excellent Ancient Egyptians display.

Our eSafety Top Tips!

1 People you don't know are strangers. They're not always who they say they are.



2 Be nice to people like you would on the playground.



3 Keep your personal information private.



4 If you ever get that 'uh oh' feeling, tell a grown-up you trust.



Green Fingers

Miss Allen is now the proud owner of three new tomato plants which have been kindly donated by Mr Law. She has been working hard with some of the children in school to develop the border outside the Y5 classroom. Thank you to Daisy and Mr Law for these donations.



Mr Gouldin's Jokes

Why did the bee have sticky hair?
Because he used an honeycomb!

The past, the present, and the future all walked into a pub.
It was very tense!