

Our Lady and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Email: school@olsj.org.uk

Website: <http://www.ourlady-stjosephs.rotherham.sch.uk/>

Twitter account follow us on: @olasjprimary

Telephone: (01709) 760084

Head teacher: Mrs H McLaughlin

Chair of Governors: Mr M Janvier

Friday 3rd July 2020



Dear parents/carers,

On Thursday, the government announced their plans for schools in September. The expectation is that all children will return to full time learning in September. This is a positive move as we all recognise that missing too much school can have a negative impact on children's mental and physical wellbeing. All the staff are excited about welcoming everyone back in September; there is a video on the home page of the school website welcoming pupils back to school which you might wish to share with you child. We hope that this will help children realise that we are all still here and can't wait to see them!

I recognise that some parents will have concerns about sending their children back in September. At Our Lady and St. Joseph's, we have had at least 10% of pupils in school since the start of lockdown and now we have approximately a quarter of the school back. This has helped us refine and embed our systems so we can scale them up in September. We will continue to follow all government guidance and take extra measures to keep our school community safe. Plans will inevitably change in response to the virus but we will continue to employ the two most important strategies to fight against the virus, namely social distancing and good hygiene and cleaning.

School will continue to use the idea of a bubble where children in a class stay together throughout the school day, working, playing and eating together; staffing will remain constant within a bubble as far as possible. Children won't be expected to social distance from each other within the bubble. Breaktimes will be staggered and dinnertimes shorter to allow every class to have time outside. Dinners will eaten in the classroom and school dinners will be a grab bag. There will be a staggered start and end to the school day to enable all adults, including staff, to maintain social distancing. Parents will drop children off at the school gate to minimise contact with staff and each other. There won't be any whole school events such as assemblies. At the same time, we will continue to keep strictly to our hygiene and cleaning protocols.

We are also thinking carefully about what learning will look like especially in the first few weeks. We will give children time to adjust back to school life and opportunities to talk with staff and learn how to socialise again. Children will learn outdoors as much as possible in addition to their Forest School sessions. Your child's teacher for next year will post a video on their current class home learning page next week to talk about what next year will look like.

To make sure that the return to school is as smooth as possible will take careful planning. School routines will be very different, but our school values and ethos remain the same. Governors will meet on Wednesday 8th July to discuss the school's risk assessments. We will be able to share with you more detailed plans e.g. times of drop off and pick up, information about school meals, what children can bring with them to school by the end of next week.

Thank you for your continued support of the school.

Mrs McLaughlin

Special Mention

F1

Elijah Cain for the resilience shown towards his learning and always trying his best.

Oliver Elliss for his fantastic art work and having such a good first week back in school.

F2

Lizzie Goode for trying really hard with her story writing.

Joseph Blunt for settling so well back into school and showing an amazing level of concentration with his story writing.

Y1

Agam Gill for amazing effort in all his work in school this week.

Evelyn Clegg for her infectious enthusiasm in topic lessons and trying so hard this week.

Y2

Zach Harris for completing a variety of tasks enthusiastically, at home, including improving his handwriting with regular practise.

Katie-Lou Hampshire for showing a high level of creativity at home on a wide range of activities - you are super talented!

Y3

George Moreton for showing resilience in the lockdown period to continue to learn.

Abigail Cain for working hard in her school work to further her learning.

Y4

Lily Towlerton for helping around the house and constructing a bbq and patio since lockdown began.

Logan Sharman for some impressive topic work on the Egyptians since we began our new topic.

Y5

Bonnie Oates for her impressive Bedrock learning.

Theo Swann for his outstanding effort to learn at home. He has shown amazing responsibility and independence. Well Done!

Y6

Mia Poole for continuing to engage with a wide range of activities including Virtual Leavers Preparations

Thomas Beverley for using Bedrock to improve his vocabulary

Mr Gouldin's Jokes

How many tickles does it take to make an octopus
laugh?

Ten-tickles!

Two silk worms had a race.
It ended in a tie!

Government Guidance for Reopening of Schools in September

The full guidance about schools reopening can be found at;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>



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We have lots of free activities @
www.facebook.com/RothLibraries/
Join our library to access free online books @
www.rotherham.gov.uk/libraries

Monday- Lego Club
Tuesday- Rhymetime at 2.30pm
Wednesday- Science/Coding club 11am
Thursday- Story time 11am
Friday- Bedtime story 6pm



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Sign up to the digital challenge this year at sillysquad.org.uk to earn your badges.

www.rotherham.gov.uk/libraries