



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Truth, Love, Compassion

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Newsletter: Spring Term: 16th July 2020

Lord, you gave your love and peace to us. Help us to make our world a happier place by sharing that love and peace with each other. Amen

Dear parents & Carers,

I hope that you and your family are well and looking forward to the summer break.

As we prepare to close for the summer, having remained open throughout the lockdown period for the children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils, and more recently for other children from different year groups including Reception, Year 1 & Year 6, we would like to thank you for all your support, kind words, encouragement and co-operation over the last 5 months.

Our school will open fully in September and planning for this new academic year is at an advanced stage. However, please be mindful that this may change in response to further government advice or in the event of a further lockdown.

Senior Leaders in school have risk assessed our return plans which are fully focused on making things work for our parents and pupils in a safe and effective way. We are very much looking forward to our school being full of pupils and staff once more, but this can only be achieved if we adhere to the rules on social distancing and preventative measures. Our over-riding consideration is that our schools are safe places. Please ensure that you are familiar with the school's new routines, and support staff and pupils in implementing them.

There is no doubt that the last five months have resulted in some pupils missing learning, but others have done very well to keep up, with many submitting excellent work to their teachers. Based on what you read in the media and on your own experience of lockdown, you may have fears and anxieties about your child needing to 'catch-up'. Please be reassured that our teachers will build a very detailed picture of where each child's learning is at and how they are coping. When all the pupils are back in school, they will return to studying a full, broad and balanced curriculum. Staff will make sure that through day-to-day teaching

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they assess and rectify any gaps in learning, and crucially, celebrate progress made.

At a time when a great deal of media coverage is being given to the impact of lost learning on young people, it is important to remember that the most significant impact of the pandemic on children and young people is likely to be on their mental health and wellbeing. Our priority will remain your child's wellbeing and their sense of connection with trusted adults in school - an essential foundation for successful learning.

When school starts for all in September, we will see how the children are and adjust teaching strategies to ensure that pupils needs are met, as well as making sure that they have the wider support needed to thrive.

This is an opportunity for us all to learn lessons from a time of adversity and grow as individuals and as a community. St Joseph's Catholic primary School is a strong family and together we will make sure that this time out of school does not define our pupils' in anything other than a positive way.

As ever, thank you on behalf of myself and the staff for your support, your patience and kindness at this time.

With best wishes to you and your family.



Diary Dates for Spring 1

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date, time & Place</u>
School Closes for Summer	Thursday 17 th July
INSET DAY	Monday 7 th September
School Opens	Tuesday 8 th September

There will be details of upcoming events on future newsletters as we get closer to event dates.

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