



**ST JOSEPH'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL**  
Part of the Edmund Rice Family

6<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that this letter finds you are all safe and well. As I am sure you are all aware school is reopening from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March for all pupils and I wanted to highlight some of the procedures we have in place and changes we have made to ensure that your child can do so safely within the current guidelines.

**Timing of the school day**

**Drop off**

Children may be dropped off for school any time between 8:15am and 8:50 (8:50 and 9:00 for Nursery and Reception). Children, accompanied by a single parent, will enter via the side gate by the school crossing as normal and a member of staff will be on the nursery playground to direct children who will go straight to their usual playground, or classroom if the weather is inclement.

Parents will exit via the nursery gate to the front of the school and then main school gate to form a continuous loop.

**Collection**

Is from 3:25 to 3:45 collecting from the playground and exiting via the Joe's club back gate. (3:00 for nursery and reception who may exit from the nursery side gate unless collecting siblings as well).

In all cases we would ask parents to wear a facemask, observe normal social distancing measures and to leave the playground as quickly as possible.

**Breakfast and Joe's Club**

Will operate as normal from 7:30am and finish at 6:00pm. We would ask however that parents only use wrap around care when absolutely necessary to help us maintain year group bubbles more easily.

**Lunch, Uniform and Kit**

City catering will be offering school lunches as normal, to maintain bubbles some children will eat in the hall and some will eat with their form tutor in their rooms.

Children will wear normal school uniform and should ensure they bring a coat to school as we will be keeping windows open to allow airflow wherever possible.

On those days when children have PE or Games they should come in their PE kit to avoid having to change whilst at school. Children should still bring a coat however to wear on top of their hoodies.

Children may bring their schoolbags and we will begin issuing reading books which will be quarantined upon their return to school. This may slow down the turnaround of reading books however we will endeavour to be as prompt as possible.

## **Curriculum**

We will be offering a full curriculum with all subjects, as well as homework being set from Monday. As part of the curriculum Dance will resume with Miss April on Thursday.

We will continue to work in 2 class bubbles Nursery/Reception, PP1/PP2, P3/P4 and P5/P6. As such lessons will continue to be set by the subject teacher normally teaching that lesson but may in some cases be delivered by a teacher within the bubble.

We are not restarting clubs before Easter with the exception of exam club for Prep 5 in order to prepare for entrance exams.

## **Parents Evenings**

As we are still asking parents to avoid coming into school wherever possible, and to contact the office via phone or e-mail, we will be holding parent's evenings via teams meetings or phone and further information will be sent to you on booking an appointment. Assemblies will also continue to be virtual for the time being although we will constantly review the situation as the governments roadmap to reopening progresses.

## **Health and Hygiene**

In preparing for the return of pupils we have completed a full risk assessment aiming to meet and exceed government requirements. In addition to the measures already in place previously staff will now be wearing facemasks when moving between classrooms and are taking part in twice weekly lateral flow testing.

## **Home Testing for Parents**

The Government have also now made home test kits available for parents of primary school children and their support bubbles details of which are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

The guidance remains however that primary school children do not need to be tested nor wear face coverings.

Pupils, staff and other adults must not come into the school if:

- they have one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area
- they have had a positive test
- have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

They must immediately cease to attend and not attend for at least 10 days from the day after:

- the start of their symptoms
- the test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test (whether this was a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test)

Your children have shown tremendous adaptability and resilience during lockdown and I appreciate first-hand the challenges that you as parents have had to overcome. I know that the staff and I are looking forward to the return that we had anticipated in January and we look forward to welcoming your children back into school on Monday.

Kind regards



**Dan Hood**  
**Headteacher**

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