



Dear Parents

I am writing to keep you updated with a few changes that we will be implementing from next week in light of the lockdown announced by the government last week and a review with staff of our current COVID measures in school. On a more positive note we are also delighted to welcome Mrs Barlow back to the school as a teaching assistant who will be working predominantly across the EYFS and Pre-Prep as well as helping out in Joe's club.

### Curriculum Bubbles

On the whole we have been pleased with how the steps taken have worked in school and delighted to have been able to resume some extra-curricular provision and maintain wrap around care so far this term. However, as I am sure you will have heard, many schools locally have had to send children home and in some cases not just classes but multiple year groups. From Monday therefore we will be making some timetable changes to further strengthen the integrity of the bubbles.

This will mean that whilst lessons will continue to be set by the subject teachers they will in the main be taught by the two class teachers attached to the bubble:

- Nursery / Reception Mrs Taylor & Mrs Brown
- PP1 / PP2 Mrs Dale & Miss Biggs
- P3 / P4 Mrs Watkins & Mrs Parrish
- P5 / P6 Miss Hemmingway & Mr Salt

PE and Games will continue to be taught by Mr Ferris throughout the school and I will continue to deliver lessons in the Prep, however we will implement other measures to reduce risks in these lessons. **To avoid confusion PE and Games will remain on the same day that they are currently on and homework nights will remain the same too.**

### Joe's Club

To reduce the chances of bubbles coming into contact with each other during Joe's club from tomorrow:

- **EYFS will be staying in Nursery until 4.30 and can be collected from the Nursery door**
- **PP1 and PP2 will be in the Reception classroom until 4.30 and again can be collected from the nursery door.**
- **P3 – P6 will remain in the Joe's club mobile and can be collected from the back gate**

After 4.30 children will all move to the Joe's Club and adjoining room, where they will have designated areas separated by dividers.

## Illness

I would like to thank all those parents who have followed the government procedures with regards to testing over the last half term. Please do continue to keep your children off school if they are unwell and if they have any of the specified symptoms of COVID they should isolate with their household until a test is taken. If your child is awaiting a COVID test please let us know that this is the case and the subsequent result. Symptoms of COVID:

- high temperature
- loss of or change in taste/smell
- new continuous cough

## Uniform

As we are very much aiming to keep rooms well ventilated as part of our measures can I ask that you ensure children do come to school in a coat, even on days when they have PE / Games and are wearing their hoody, and when in uniform have a jumper if necessary.

During this period it would also be preferable for children to wear a warmer hat in black or red rather than the caps or boaters and as they are dry clean only blazers remain optional.

Unfortunately it looks as though the present situation, particularly the guidance on singing, will also continue to restrict our normal Christmas activities including the carol service and nativity as well as class assemblies. We will however continue to explore what is possible remotely and will do all we can to share what the children are doing and all their successes.

Many thanks for all your support at what continues to be a difficult and challenging time.

Kind regards



Dan Hood

*St Joseph's Preparatory School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.*

**Headteacher: Mr D. Hood**

**Rookery Lane, Trent Vale, Stoke on Trent, ST4 5RFTel: 01782 417533**

**Email: [enquiries@stjosephsprepschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stjosephsprepschool.co.uk)**