

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2020

St. JOSEPH'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
Part of the Edmund Rice Family



Dear Parents

As September is rapidly approaching and the summer holiday draws to a close I know many of you will have questions about the coming term. The school has been a hive of activity over the holidays with Nursery and reception being refurbished and a number of teachers moving rooms, we have also continued to monitor the changing guidance closely adapting our risk assessments and plans to ensure that the children will enjoy a full curriculum in a safe environment.

Having welcomed all children back to school prior to the summer holiday we are confident that we can safely welcome all children back in September as well as resume normal aftercare arrangements as we progress along the road back to normality. I hope the following information will prove useful to new and existing parents alike, and look forward to welcoming you all on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

#### **Will the children need to wear uniform?**

- We expect that children will return in their uniform, however given that blazers are dry clean these will be optional.
- On days when the children have PE or Games we ask that they come in their PE kit. There will be no PE or games the first week back, when you will receive a copy of your child's timetable.
- Children can bring their bag to school and we will be sending reading books home. Children will need to bring a water bottle and given the changeable state of the weather in recent weeks may need a sun hat and sun cream. Having a pencil case with their own pencils, ruler and so on will also help minimise the risks of sharing equipment.

#### **Do the children need to wear face masks?**

- Given the age of the children and guidance face masks do not need to be worn in school. If children are wearing them on the way to school we would recommend bringing a sealable plastic bag in which to store them during the day.
- Staff have been issued with clear face shields but will only wear them should they need to administer first aid or if with a child who displays Covid symptoms.

#### **What measures are in place to reduce mass gatherings of parents and children at the start and end of school?**

- Breakfast club and Joe's club will resume from the first day of term and whilst we will continue to offer flexibility for parents a questionnaire will be sent next week

regarding regular aftercare requirements. Ensuring these are as accurate as possible will really help with our planning.

- We will not be staggering the drop off or collection times. Pupils arriving between 7.45 and 8.15 through the nursery gate will go into breakfast club; Nursery and Reception will use their classrooms and pre-prep and prep will be in the mobile (Mr Salt's old classroom).
- Pupils arriving between 8.15 and 8.50 will go to their respective playgrounds or in the event of wet weather straight to their classroom.
- Nursery will have their regular start of 9.00 and finish at 3.00.
- Collection from school will be extended from 3.25 until 3.45. Nursery and Reception will leave from the Nursery door, PP1, PP2 and P3 will line up at the Nursery side gate as before. P4, P5 and P6 will line up at the gate between the mobile and the main school building which can be accessed by walking past reception and along the path running down the side of the school. This will also become the entrance to be used when collecting from Joe's club – which will be located in the mobile classroom.
- Both gates and the nursery door allow for a one way flow and by using all three over a longer period we hope collecting will be swift and efficient. As far as possible we would ask parents not to congregate on or around the school site before or after school. All adults must always maintain social distancing to reduce the chance of transmitting the virus and because they are role models for the children about how to behave in public places.

### **Is the curriculum being changed?**

- Whilst staff will be carefully planning the activities they undertake in class to minimise any risks, the changes to guidance allow for the resumption of specialist teaching and we will continue to offer a broad and exciting curriculum to all pupils.
- To minimise the impact of movement around the school however teachers will move between classrooms to deliver their subjects and but for a few subjects (PE, Games, Dance) children will remain in their classroom throughout the day.
- Trentham unfortunately have notified us that swimming will not be available during the autumn term. We will send details of when classes are swimming when we are notified that the situation has changed.
- Games will go ahead in school with the children in double class bubbles:
  - Nursery / Reception
  - PP1 / PP2
  - P3/ P4
  - P5/ P6

Children will however be asked to maintain their class bubbles within this and all sports equipment will continue to be meticulously cleaned by Mr Ferris as happened during the summer.

- Fixtures are unlikely during the autumn term but we hope to resume competition at the earliest opportunity

- As some parents may be aware this year is scheduled to see the introduction of the new Sex and Relationships curriculum (SRE). In essence the sex education part is only compulsory for secondary schools and the main elements of the relationships education are already embedded in our PSHE planning, however the Governors and I will be rewriting our policy on this area and as part of this process will be consulting with you on both the policy and the content during the coming term.

### **What will the lunch arrangements be this term?**

- City catering will be offering hot meals again this term although their menu and choices have been altered to accommodate meals being pre-packed like in-flight meals. This will avoid having additional catering staff coming into school to serve food from a single point being used by all children.

### **What else can we do to help minimise any risks?**

- Whilst we are taking as many precautionary measures as we can to limit any potential spread the first line of defence lies with you as parents as the DfE guidance on prevention states; *Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school and anyone developing those symptoms during the school day is sent home, are essential actions to reduce the risk in schools and further drive down transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).*
- Your support in this regard is invaluable, and as we head into that time of year where seasonal flu and other coughs and colds become more prevalent, it will become even more so. Please therefore follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)', which sets out that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19).
- To avoid any confusion or rumours if a child is sent home with suspected Covid symptoms a text will be sent to parents of the children within that bubble so that they are aware and can monitor their own child for any symptoms.
- Given that local lockdowns have been enforced around the country and that those with suspected symptoms may have to self-isolate we recognise that there may be occasion to return to online or blended learning. In this case work will continue to be set on OneNote for any pupils who are unable to come into school. Log in details guidance will be issued to all new and existing parents at the start of term.

I am tremendously excited at the prospect of the new term, and wish to thank Mrs Brown for her support as acting deputy head during the recent months and am delighted that Mrs Watkins will be taking on the role going forward. She has a wealth of experience within the education sector and am sure she will help move the school forward both as deputy and RE coordinator.

Whilst we can never be sure what the weather has in store, I wish you all an enjoyable end to the summer holiday with your families and look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Hood', written in a cursive style.

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.*

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