



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

HP1039

28<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your patience and support over the first few weeks of term as we have all settled into our new routines and adapted to the changes that COVID has entailed. Unfortunately, the current situation will continue to affect some of the calendared events during this term and I would like to highlight some of those changes and what plans we have put in place. I understand that this will be a particularly challenging term as the regular coughs and colds start to take hold and necessitate testing, one can only hope that locations will be more local and readily available – I have already heard of some parents spending hours on the phone to be offered Dundee or Inverness! I am led to believe that slots become available at 8 and 10 and are the best times to call.

Your support however remains invaluable and I hope with your help we will be able to keep our whole school community safe.

**PP1-P6 Parents Evenings**

After careful consideration, we will be extending parents evening over three nights 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> October. This will allow us to reduce footfall and provide sufficient time between appointments to clean as well as avoiding unnecessary waiting times. Additionally, parents will use a one-way system and the veranda entrances to rooms to minimise contacts, and meetings will be socially distanced within the classrooms. For those parents who are shielding or otherwise unable to come into school we will offer a zoom or telephone appointment. A booking form will be sent later this week.

**Harvest and CAFOD Family Fast**

Our CAFOD family fast will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> October within individual classes and we would ask children bring in £1 and will receive a slice of bread instead of having their normal snack. We will not be able to hold a full Harvest assembly in school however we will aim to capture and share as many Harvest songs and as much of our celebrations as we can digitally. The prep children will receive their Harvest envelope to decorate and we ask that at this time when many of our local foodbanks and shelters are struggling that anyone wishing to donate for harvest bring it in between the 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> October. Please bring only dry/canned goods and no fresh produce as parcels will be quarantined before distribution.

**Carol Service and Christmas Nativity**

Looking further ahead in the term it is difficult to know exactly what the situation will be however we are preparing for the eventuality that we will not be able to host assemblies or the Carol service at Holy Trinity this year. We are putting plans in place to record a CD/DVD to capture all those lovely moments so not a single, king, shepherd or sheep is missed.

### **Reading and Library Books**

There are still a number of outstanding reading and library books missing from last term, if I could urge you to look and return any that may have been misplaced. This is especially important at present as we are quarantining returned reading books prior to them going back on the shelves.

### **Uniform**

As the weather seems to have finally turned – my first opportunity to scrape ice this morning – can I ask that all children come to school wearing their black school coat, as well as hat, gloves and scarves if needed (plain black or red please – no patterns or logos). Due to the constraints of moving around the classroom during the day it is vital that we can get the children outside for breaks and with ventilation playing an important role in the classroom jumpers and cardigans will help beat the chill too.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher**

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