

# NEWSLETTER



*We are growing together on our journey of achievement with Jesus in our hearts, heads and hands.*

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## Reflection:

Gracious God, we come to you at the beginning of this academic year with our many feelings, expectations, fears and hopes.

Help us to remember, however, we have the comforting assurance from you: "I will always be with you."

23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the start of a new academic year, we would like to make you aware of some changes to the school's response to the pandemic. We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of some of the school's policies and procedures, changes to homework expectations as well as resources needed by the children.

**Latest Government Covid Update:** A summary of the key points from the new guidelines for schools are below:

- All close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace. NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts.
- Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:
  - they are fully vaccinated
  - they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
  - they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
  - they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- Close contacts will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. For the safety of all, St. Josephs strongly encourages all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.
- Staff who do not need to isolate, and children under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal.
- St. Josephs will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases at St. Joseph's, we will follow our Outbreak Management Plan. There is still a possibility that if there is a surge in cases in Bracknell Forest our school may have to temporarily close.
- St. Joseph's will continue to follow the government advised control measures:
  1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
  2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
  3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
  4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19
- When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test, he/she should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).
- If anyone at St. Joseph's school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and they should follow public health advice.
- Staff will continue to undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.
- **Confirmatory PCR tests:** Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in

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line with the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

- Remote education: Not all people with COVID-19 have symptoms. St. Josephs will support those who need to self-isolate because they have tested positive to learn from home if they are well enough to do so. St. Joseph's will continue to use MSTEAMS as our platform for Remote Learning.
- In most cases, parents will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending St. Josephs, we can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.

*Please Note: If there is a positive COVID case in your household or your child has been notified as a close contact, the school would appreciate being informed as we can monitor your child's health carefully as well as implement strict social distancing for our unvaccinated members of staff.*

## **St. Joseph's Arrangements for September 2021:**

We will continue with the arrangements stated in our July newsletter regards a September opening.

- We will allow more mixing and rather than have class bubbles, we will have three teams across the school:
  1. EYFS Team: Footsteps and Reception Year
  2. Lower School Team: Year 1, 2 & 3
  3. Upper School Team: Year 4, 5 & 6

- We will continue with the staggered starts and collection. Siblings should both arrive at the earlier time of eldest sibling and then will be collected at the latest time. In September we expect all children to be on time so that lateness does not affect the other children's learning.

Year Group	Drop off & collection Point	Drop off	Collection
Nursery	Double Gates next to Footsteps	9am	3pm
Year R	Single gate next to Footsteps	9am	3pm
Year 1	Double Gates next to Footsteps	8.45am	2.45pm
Year 2	Double gate next to Footsteps	8.45am	2.45pm
Year 3	KS2 Single Gate	8.30am	3pm
Year 4	KS2 Single Gate	8.30am	3.10pm
Year 5	Double Gates next to Footsteps	8.30am	3.10pm
Year 6	Gate next to Footsteps	8.30am	3.10pm

- All children will take their lunch in the school hall. YR, 1& 2 will have a staggered lunch break which will start at 11.40am, 11.50am & 12pm. Respectively. Y3 and the Upper School Team will go out onto the playground at 12.10pm and be called into the hall, class by class when the tables have been wiped down after the previous class have left.
- The new PE tracksuit is available on the [Brigade Uniform site](#). Children should wear this PE kit to school on their PE days.

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Y1: Wednesday & Thursday

Y2: Tuesday & Thursday

Y3: Tuesday & Friday

Y4: Monday & Wednesday

Y5: Monday & Wednesday

Y6: Tuesday & Friday

- At this moment we will continue with the Morning and After School Club as we have this year. We will not be introducing any after school activities until we can better gauge the situation later in the term.

**Homework:** We are changing the way in which we do homework this year and moving away from the books that we have previously purchased. These are still a valuable resource and if you think they would benefit your child, you can purchase them in most bookstores.

The school is subscribed to many online educational resources and we are asking for a £6 contribution towards the cost of your child's use of these for homework.

Reading homework is the biggest priority for our school and each child is expected to read every single night and log this in their Reading Record (name of book, pages read, parent comment/signature). The amount of time to be spent reading depends on age and each class teacher will set their expectation in the autumn newsletters. When children are fluent readers, they do not necessarily need to read aloud to you, but it is incredibly helpful to their comprehension development if they talk about what they have read and answer some questions on this. We will move children up book bands when their comprehension and decoding skills are both at a good enough level. Additionally, the online programme 'Oxford Tree Reading Buddy' will continue to be used to provide extra reading material at your child's level.

Each week, your child will be set spelling homework. These will be taught in class on a Monday and a spelling test will be given on a Friday morning. The most important thing is to find a strategy that helps you to learn your words each week. Some ideas are:

- Look, say, cover, write, check
- Trace, copy, replicate, check
- Segment into phonemes or syllables
- Quickwrite (writing a word as many times correctly as possible within two minutes)
- Drawing around the word to show you the shape
- Drawing an image around the word
- Pyramid words
- Rainbow writing
- Making up silly sentences containing the word
- Saying them in funny ways e.g. saying the silent letters
- Clapping and counting syllables.

Each child also has access to a Mathletics account. This is closely linked to our Maths curriculum and this will be used each week. Teachers will set between 1-3 activities each week, depending on their classes needs. From Year 2 (Christmas) to Year 6, children will also have access to a Times Table Rockstar account. We will not be giving children younger than this access to the website as it is not part of their curriculum and they should focus on counting in steps of 2, 5 and 10 and securing number bonds.

Year 5 and 6 have access to spag.com and at least one test will be set weekly.

Additionally, for all children, there will be one other task set. This could include topic, Religion, PSHE or Music and could be paper or discussion based or be set on Purple Mash.

Class teachers will set all homework on Teams each week so please check this each Monday. We understand that some weeks completing homework may be more difficult than others and

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we do not want this to be a source of arguments or frustration at home. Please communicate with class teachers about any issues and we can work together to find a solution.

**Pencil Case:** To minimise shared resources, we ask all children to have their own pencil case (to remain in school) with the following items:

- 3 pencils (preferably triangular grip)
- Eraser
- Sharpener
- 3 whiteboard pens (preferably narrow type) & whiteboard cloth (jiffy cloth)
- Ruler – 30 cm in length
- A set of colouring pencils (NO felt tips or sharpies)
- Fountain pen for Y5 & Y6 as directed by class teacher

**A gentle reminder that back packs are NOT allowed in school.**

**Snack:** The free fruit and vegetables for KS1 to eat at playtime will be continued supplied this academic year. For KS2 (Y3, 4, 5, & 6) we ask that parents send in a snack with their child. This should only be fruit or vegetables.

**School Uniform:** Our school uniform unites us as a school community and should foster a feeling of pride and a sense of belonging. This in turn helps to develop a greater awareness of personal appearance, self-esteem and self-respect. Please help us to uphold these values by ensuring that your child's school and PE uniform adheres to the school policy, which can be found on the school website, but please, in particular, note the following;

•PE Track Suit consists of black Uneek joggers and Uneek round necked sweatshirt with school logo. T-Shirt and Shorts can also be worn in warmer weather or under the track suit.

•Earrings should be a pair of small, plain studs which must be removed or taped for PE lessons. Please tape your child's earrings with micropore tape before they come to school on their PE day if you would prefer them not to remove their studs.

•Nail varnish is not permitted and hair clips/slides should be functional, not decorative. Please do not adorn your child's hair with large bows, hairbands, slides or ribbons.

•If the children have hair which reaches their shoulders, it must be tied/clipped back. This applies to both girls and boys.

•Coats should be plain and dark coloured.

We appreciate your help and co-operation in helping us maintain our high expectations where uniform is concerned.

Children can wear the summer uniform until the end of September. From the first week in October as the weather becomes colder, all children must wear the winter uniform.

**School Calendar:** Please refer to our school calendar as there are three INSET days in the Autumn term: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October and two INSET days which extend the half term on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Pupil Premium:** Pupil Premium is an allocation of funding from the Government which is given separately to the main school budget. The government provide this money to help school address the current national underlying inequalities between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their peers. The funding is to ensure that provision is in place for those disadvantaged children who need it most. Pupil Premium is allocated to schools to work with pupils who have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM'). There is also an allocation for

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children who are “Looked After”, adopted or children of service personnel.

Since the introduction of Free School Meals for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, these children may miss out on this additional funding. We do encourage parents to complete a form if they think they may be eligible, even if they do not need to claim a free meal.

Family circumstances can change and even if you are between jobs and eligible, you can register your child. If successful, St. Joseph’s school will receive valuable additional funding from the Government. Application is quick and easy – just click [here](#).

**Add some fun to the walk to school:** We are delighted to continue the Eco Walk project during the autumn term. We have requested extra markers which once arrived can be collected from the school office. Once you have your marker, you need to register on [Eco Rewards - Rewarding Green Travel Choices](#).

markers (There is a marker at the top of Largest Lane). Participation is as simple as this!



Warmest Regards

Mrs. J. Dunlop,  
Headteacher



On your walk to school, you tag the markers – please see the map below for the location of the