St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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3rd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school everyone!

It was lovely to see all the children returning to school this morning, looking very smart in their full, proper school uniform. It put a huge smile on my face!

I am looking forward to starting the new school year and as we get back to some sort of 'normality', we will put in place our familiar routines as safely as possible. I'm sure some of you are feeling a little bit anxious but we will get through this together.

As far as COVID goes, we will endeavour to keep you updated with both national and local guidance so please check your emails, texts, school website and children's book bags regularly. The guidance from the government at the moment advises that:

- 'Bubbles' are no longer required. As a consequence, the children can mix in the playground, assemblies can resume and some other traditional activities that have been paused over the last eighteen months can be reintroduced.
- Face coverings are no longer required for staff in either classrooms or communal areas.
- Steps previously taken to improve the flow of fresh air through the building will be maintained, balancing the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature for the children and staff.
- We will continue good hand hygiene practice either through regular hand washing or using hand sanitiser.
- We will also continue using the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' NHS message especially as the colder months approach.
- Staff have been advised to continue to use lateral flow tests twice a week throughout the month of September until told otherwise.
- Pupils and staff displaying Covid-19 symptoms should not attend school. These symptoms include:
    - high temperature
    - a new, continuous cough
    - a loss or change to the sense of smell or taste.
- Pupils who are isolating because they have tested positive will be provided with remote learning using Google Classroom (Tapestry in the Reception class) if they are well enough to do so.

Symptomatic individuals should isolate and book a PCR test. Other household members who are fully vaccinated or under the age of 18 and 6 months do not need to isolate. If individuals receive a negative PCR test result, feel well and are not displaying Covid-19 symptoms they may return to school. If individuals receive a positive PCR test result, the other household members are advised to also book a PCR test.

If you have any safeguarding concerns that you wish to discuss, then please arrange to speak to me (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Mrs Partridge (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and SENDCO). We are all dedicated to supporting the well-being and needs of your children as they return to school.

I would like to invite you all to join us to celebrate Education Sunday Mass at St Mary of the Crays Church on 12th September at 10.30am. Children are invited to proudly wear their uniform to represent our school.

In light of this, we would like to set the children a task – to become a teacher like Jesus. Their task is to teach you the prayer that they say every morning in class so you can learn it off by heart. I'm sure you will be quick learners.

Morning Prayer
Father in Heaven I give you today,
all that I think and do and say.
I give you the good times as well as the bad,
the times when I'm happy, the times when I'm sad.
Fill me with grace and make me strong.
With you at my side, I won't go wrong.
Amen.

Next Friday, I will send out our September newsletter so you can gather all the information about what is happening at St Joseph's this term.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Truss

Mrs Truss
Head of School