

St Joseph's RC Primary School



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Information for Parents and Carers – September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have all had a restful holiday and that your children are looking forward to their return to school.

This letter is to share with you some **important updates** regarding the start of the new term. Please be assured that our plans follow all Government Guidelines.

Face coverings

To limit the risk of infection between adults, and in line with changes to government policy, we ask that all adults bringing or collecting children from school, wear a face covering whilst on the school site. At present, we DO NOT allow or encourage face coverings to be worn by any child on the school premises.

Staff will not routinely wear face coverings in school. However, those members of staff who are on the gates in the morning and afternoon may wear a face covering due to the number of people they will have contact with.

Why is this important?

This is not just about preventing staff or pupils from contracting the virus. It is about limiting the time that adults spend in close proximity with each other, and the number of different adults they have contact with.

Public Health Salford state that a staff member would need to self-isolate for 14 days if they were in the following contact with someone who had tested positive for Covid-19:

The closer the contact we have, with more people, the more likely it is that more staff would need to self-isolate and more bubbles in the school would need to be closed. We want to minimise risk and do everything we can to avoid any further disruption to the children's education. Face coverings are now a normal part of everyday life, so I am sure you will support us by respecting this policy.

Sickness and Testing

Please give this careful consideration. However, I would like to highlight a recent change in advice from Public Health Salford:

An unwell person or child could be a possible case of COVID-19.

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

A new continuous cough

A high temperature (fever)

A loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Any one of the above symptoms gives reason for high level of suspicion for COVID-19.

A well person or child: feels 100% well, seems themselves and not displaying any changes in behaviour or their daily routines.

An unwell person or child could be a possible case of COVID-19.

A combination of symptoms below gives reason for high level of suspicion for COVID-19.

Vomiting/nausea/off their food, diarrhoea, sleeping more than usual, complaining of not feeling themselves, listless/restless/agitated, shortness of breath, feeling cold, headache, severe body aches, sore throat, congested or runny nose, skin rash - anything that is not feeling themselves.

Note: For fevers, the NHS advice is to look for a high temperature – ‘this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back; you do not need to measure your temperature’.

Dealing with suspected cases

1. Pupils, staff or any member of the school community should not attend school if they are unwell as outlined above. Parents should not send their child to school/setting. If anyone in the household is unwell, awaiting testing or has tested positive for COVID then they should not attend the school or setting.
2. If someone becomes unwell (as outlined above) in school, they should be sent home and advised to isolate while awaiting the result of a COVID test. The school or setting should undertake any necessary cleaning after someone has been unwell on the premises. All staff are aware of the need for PPE for cleaning or dealing with an unwell person.
3. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus. Household members of staff can also be tested if they have symptoms.
4. All parents of children and staff who have been tested should provide the outcome of the test result (positive or negative) to the school or setting to help protect the wider school community.
5. Where the pupil or staff member with symptoms tests negative, they can return to the school or setting provided they feel well enough and they have not had a fever, diarrhoea or vomiting for 48 hours. As there are other viruses circulating such as a cold or flu, it is advisable to avoid contact with other people until they are better.

Other household members can end their isolation straight away following the negative test (unless someone else in the household is waiting for the result of their test; or they have are self-isolating because they have been in contact with another case).

You must provide specific details of the symptoms if your child is unwell in any way. Please do not take the risk and send them into school. Tests can now be arranged the same day and results returned in less than 24 hours. We all must play our part to avoid the spread of the disease.

Essential Measures include the following

- If your child has had to have paracetamol, Nurofen or Calpol they cannot come into school until they are 48 hours clear as these medicines can mask the symptoms of COVID-19.
- Children and staff showing symptoms of Corona Virus, must isolate at home for fourteen days
- Hand washing stations are positioned carefully in classrooms and shared areas
- Additional cleaning will be carried out in high use areas during the day
- We will actively engage with NHS Test and Trace procedures
- Formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable
- Each phase of the school will become a ‘Bubble’ in September – the four phases will be EYFS, KS1, LKS2 and UKS2

Arrival and Collection

- The Mayflower Gate will be opened at 8.45am and will close at 9.10am.
- Please enter using the gate on Mayflower Avenue, keeping to the right.
- Parking is available at the front of the church on St Joseph’s Drive. Please keep hold of your children.
- Follow the one way system around the school buildings and don’t stop to chat.
- Exit through the gate onto St Joseph’s Drive or the gate on Mayflower Avenue, keeping to the right.
- NO ENTRANCE through the gate onto St Joseph’s Drive due to lack of space for social distancing.
- Parents will not be able to come into the school buildings unless by prior appointment. Please either email stjosephsordsall.rcprimaryschool@salford.gov.uk or phone (0161 921 1890) to contact us.
- The gate on Ryall Avenue will remain closed initially as there is not sufficient room to social distance. This will be reviewed once the one way system is firmly in place.
- At home time, the Mayflower Gate will open at 3.15pm and close at 3.40pm.
- Please remember that we are not able to offer breakfast club at present.
- Please see updated staggered drop off and collection times below:

Start of the day		Entrance
Year 5 and Year 6	8.45am	Main Entrance
Year 3 and Year 4	8.55am	Main Entrance
Year 2	8.50am	KS1 Entrance
Year 1	8.50am	Year 1 Classroom
Reception	9.00am	Reception
Nursery	As pre-arranged	Nursery

End of the day		Exit
EYFS	3.25pm	Classrooms
Year 1 and 2	3.25pm	KS1
Year 3 and 4	3.20pm	Main Entrance
Year 5 and 6	3.30pm	Main Entrance

If for any reason your child is late for school, you will need to come to the St. Joseph's Drive Gate and press the buzzer for reception. Please then wait with your child until a member of staff is available to take them into class. Due to social distancing we have a limited number of staff in the school office so please be patient at this time.

Expectations

- Children to wear full school uniform
- Black school shoes or trainers
- Jewellery must not be worn. Children with pierced ears must wear studs only.
- Children must come into school wearing their PE kit on their allocated PE day. Information on PE days for each class will be shared week beginning 7th September.
- PE kit – black shorts, red polo shirt, trainers or pumps. Plain black track suit joggers can be worn.
- All children need a waterproof coat as they will be outside at playtime, even in the rain.
- Only a packed lunch and reading book (in a book bag) may be brought into school. Please do not send in large bags or rucksacks

Classroom Organisation

- All desks will be arranged in classrooms with forward facing desks from Y2 upwards
- Children will only work in their bubbles comprising EYFS, KS1, LKS2 and UKS2
- No stationary will be shared between bubbles
- Children must bring in a clearly labelled water bottle from home each day

Assemblies/Acts of Collective Worship

- Whole school and phase assemblies will not take place in the school hall
- All assemblies will take place via live streaming

Lunchtimes

All lunchtimes will be staggered to enable us to maintain social distancing and ensure that the children remain in their "Bubble". All playgrounds will be used.

Free School Meals

It is important if your circumstances have changed and you think that you may be entitled to free school meals that you contact school immediately. We can then start the process in securing this entitlement for you.

During the last half term we had children from various year groups in school. There were no outbreaks of COVID 19 and the whole school community followed the protocols put into place. All of the children enjoyed their time in class and benefited from the opportunity to return, settling into new routines quickly. Our first few days will be spent embedding the new routines and procedures, ensuring that the children are settled and ready to learn. I know that along with our staff, you will want your children to enjoy all that school has to offer. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Enjoy the final days of the holiday.

Kind regards,

Rosie Hince