

St Joseph The Worker R C Primary School

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Friday, 21st June 2021

Dear Families,

The children have settled back quickly into school following the half-term break. I think they, like us, have enjoyed the lovely warm and sunny weather. It is difficult to believe that there are less than 5 weeks left of this school year. This letter therefore contains key dates and information which families will need over the coming weeks.

Transition Arrangements – Nursery and Reception

As announced by the Government last week, the removal of covid restrictions has been delayed. As a result, the parents Induction Meeting in school has been cancelled. Paper induction packs will be distributed to families in due course as will other relevant materials. We are still planning to invite children to attend a transition slot on **Friday 9th July**. These visits will take place outside and in small groups where safety measures can be adhered to. Children are to be accompanied by one parent only. Further information will follow.

Transition Arrangements – Whole School

Children in Y6 who are moving on to St. Patrick's or other secondary providers in Salford will attend transition days on Thursday 8th July and Friday 9th July. Children in other year groups will therefore use this opportunity to spend a day in their new classes for September on Friday 9th July. Please bring and collect children to/from school at their usual staggered start and finish times. Those children attending St. Patrick's must be taken and collected directly from the high school or other travel arrangements made. A LFT should be taken the night before to ensure all children attending have a negative test result prior to the visit.

Holding a transition day does increase the risk of wider bubble closures if there was a positive case within school. However, I strongly believe that the benefits to your children outweigh the risks. I hope that you will agree with the decision which we have taken.

Bubble Closures

Across the city there has been a sharp increase in the number of cases of COVID-19. The rising number of cases are predominantly affecting the young, therefore we will be very fortunate to complete the term without bubble closures. **It is therefore more important than ever that you stringently follow the guidance issued in previous letters and in particular the guidance issued on Friday by Salford's Director of Public Health** which is available to view on our website.

Please can I remind parents to adhere to social distancing measures on the playground and to wear face masks onsite. By adhering to all the relevant safety advice can play our part in keeping everyone safe and minimise the disruption to the education for our children.



Building Fund

Our school must meet 10% of the costs of all building work because we are a Voluntary Aided Catholic school. Historically, this came from the contributions made by families in church on a Sunday, but this is no longer enough to provide basic repairs and maintenance to the church, let alone the school. By paying into the Diocese fund, we are able to bid for money to improve our building and meet our 10% obligation. This summer a large sum has been secured to carry out a necessary boiler replacement. We will be required to make our contribution to the cost of this this year. In order to do this we are asking families to make a £30 voluntary contribution annually. This can be paid in instalments over the course of an academic year. Crucially this will help us to continue to make necessary improvements to the building and in turn to the education of our children. We have developed an exciting building development plan which we hope can further transform the school over the next few years, but we need your help. From September, I would be grateful if you could check your ParentPay account and contribute, to ensure that the school building remains fit for purpose for generations to come.

Holidays

A reminder that all holiday requests must be made in writing to the headteacher at least three weeks in advance of the trip. It is currently not permitted to fly to an 'amber' destination for a holiday. Therefore, any period of quarantine will be classed as unauthorised absence, in addition to the holiday itself. As a result, this will result in a fine being issued by the local authority.

Sports Days

Unfortunately, it not be possible to invite parents onsite to share sports days with children this year. The sport day events will still go ahead and children can attend school in sports clothing on these days. Photographs and video clips will be shared with parents following the events on learning platforms and on Twitter. Thank you in advance for your understanding in this matter.

School Reports

Following updated guidance from the DFE on the 10th June, school reports have been slightly amended from the format shared with parents before the half term break. A copy of the new template has been attached to this email for your attention. Reports will be shared with parents on Monday 12th July and not Friday 16th July as previously communicated.

Finally, we have an action packed half term ahead of us. We are very fortunate that many events will still take place even though safety advice has required us to review safety procedures. Last week the children across the school enjoyed workshops delivered by a special visitor on Hinduism. Year 1 and 2 enjoyed an exciting day exploring circus skills and Year 3 enjoyed a trip to the new RHS in Worsley. With continued effort adhering to all safety advice, inside and outside of school, we hope that children continue to have an action packed and fun-filled summer term.

Kind regards

E Clayton
Headteacher

