



St Joseph's RC Primary School  
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Headteacher: Mrs Laura Taylor

### Arrangements for after Half Term - February 2021

10<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

The latest scientific evidence from the Welsh Government, in relation to COVID-19, shows a steady positive decline in almost all the indicators. This evidence suggests to them that there is sufficient headroom to enable the compulsory return of our youngest learners to school.

As a result, we are delighted to be able to welcome our Foundation Phase pupils back to face-to-face learning after half term. All Foundation Phase pupils from Nursery to Year 2 will return to school on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**.

#### How we will continue to keep your child safe

Safety is still our primary concern and we will continue to do all we can to mitigate the risk of transmitting the virus.

This includes:

- continuing to learn and play in the contact groups established during the autumn term.
- continuing our rigorous hand washing and hand hygiene procedures.
- social distancing between adults and where possible, between adults and pupils.
- the wearing of masks by staff in communal areas of the school building and, where appropriate, in the classroom.
- the wearing of masks by parents and carers on the playground unless they are medically exempt.
- increased cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces.
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- being vigilant of changes to children's temperatures and signs of fever.
- using individual sets of resources where possible.
- staggering start times, break and lunchtimes and exit times at the end of the school day.
- no assemblies or large gatherings (collective worship will be virtual or in class).

Staff members will also test themselves at home twice weekly, using a Lateral Flow Test, giving a negative or positive result within 30 minutes.

## Start and End times of the school day

In order to mitigate risk further, we will make the following changes to our start and finish times:

Group	Start time	Exit time
Nursery (morning session)	0920	1150
Nursery (afternoon session)	1315	1545
Reception	0910 - 0920	1530
Years 1 and 2	0910 - 0920	1540
KS2 Critical Worker provision	0830/ 0930	1600
KS2 Vulnerable pupil provision	0830/ 0930	1515

Parents will continue to leave their child at the school gate in the morning and will be permitted onto the playground, wearing a mask if not exempt from doing so, in order to collect their child at the end of the school day.

## Breakfast Club

We will continue to operate our Breakfast Club from 8.30am for pupils in Foundation Phase and in the KS2 Critical Worker and vulnerable pupil provision, but we ask that it is only used by parents and carers, **if absolutely necessary**. As in the autumn term, pupils will enter for Breakfast Club through the Year 1 entrance and wash their hands before going to the hall.

## School Dinners

All Foundation Phase pupils and those accessing the KS2 Critical Worker and vulnerable pupil provision, will be required to bring a water bottle with their name on, fruit for snack time and a packed lunch or opt for hot meal as normal, by booking it on ParentPay.

## Uniform

All pupils, including those accessing the KS2 Critical Worker and vulnerable pupil provision, are required to wear school uniform, including black, flat and sensible shoes (no boots or high heels), in February.

For the period of Foundation Phase pupils return only, on **Monday and Tuesday**, all pupils must wear appropriate PE kit, including trainers, to school.

Pupils accessing the Key Stage 2 Critical Worker and vulnerable pupil provision can wear their PE Kit on a Monday.

We will be making the most of our wonderful outdoor areas, so a warm coat, gloves, hat and scarf would be advised.

## Devices

All pupils in the Foundation Phase are asked to return their school devices on their first day unless needed by an older sibling who attends St Joseph's. Additional devices can then be sent home to KS2 pupils who may require them, and in particular, to facilitate two live lessons a day.

## Teaching and Learning

### Foundation Phase

For our Foundation Phase pupils, the teaching and learning focus for the first two weeks will include: re-establishing procedures for hand hygiene, classroom culture techniques, additional opportunities for structured and un-structured play, increased wellbeing, physical exercise and physical development activities and outdoor learning. Teaching and learning activities will also focus on St David's Day and the theme 'The Place where I belong', as well as reviewing pupils' mathematics and English skills/ phonics acquisition since closure.

### Key Stage 2

For our Key Stage 2 pupils, we need to continue our distance learning provision for a little longer, until the Welsh Government deems it safe to return to school for these classes. Key Stage 2 pupils will continue to learn remotely following the same guidance as January 2021.

Following feedback from our staff, parent and pupil questionnaires, we will send home the maths worksheets after half term and increase the number of live lessons to:

- 1 on a Monday
- 2 on a Tuesday (am and pm)
- 1 on a Wednesday
- 2 on a Thursday (am and pm)
- Check-in session on a Friday

Please note, that the live lessons will continue to be recorded and uploaded into the child's class folder, if your child is unable, or indeed does not want to, take part in the live lesson.

### Live lesson times from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Year 3</b>	9.15	9.15 12.30	9.15	9.15 12.30	9.15
<b>Year 4</b>	10.00	10.00 1.15	10.00	10.00 1.15	10.00
<b>Year 5</b>	10.45	10.45 2.00	10.45	10.45 2.00	10.45
<b>Year 6</b>	11.30	11.30 2.45	11.30	11.30 2.45	11.30

## **Key Stage 2 pupils of critical workers who require in-school provision**

From Monday 22nd February, we will continue to provide in-school provision for pupils of critical workers. This provision is for pupils where one or more parent is a critical worker and is only to be used on the days where the parent/carer is attending the workplace and where no other childcare can be arranged. The Welsh Government operational guidance states that parents/carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.

All pupils who are accessing the critical worker (and vulnerable pupil) provision will remain as one contact group regardless of their year group, so if there is a confirmed positive case, the whole contact group will need to self-isolate for the 10 days.

Parents of Key Stage 2 pupils who are critical workers must complete the form linked here:

<https://forms.gle/mx12zm4pHRxeAXvz5>

to request the days and times needed for the first two weeks after half term.

Please note that from Monday 22nd February, pupils of critical workers can either arrive at 830am and go through the year 1 entrance for Breakfast Club or at 930am and go straight to the year 3 classroom. The provision finishes at 4pm at the latest.

From Monday 22nd February, all pupils of critical workers will also need to wear uniform to school.

### **Finally**

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for supporting the home learning. You are doing a great job!

Thank you for your continued support of our staff and our school. It is greatly appreciated.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office.

I wish you all a happy and well-deserved rest over half term.

Kind regards,

Mrs Taylor