



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
We are children of God: we achieve, believe and care.

16 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. For the vast majority of people, the virus causes a mild, self-limiting illness. We are getting in touch to let you know what we are doing in light of the guidance and what we expect from you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We would like to reassure you that at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we are taking the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government.

What is the current situation?

The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we have been given.

All school functions continue to run as normal, including Breakfast Club and after-school clubs.

We have taken a number of key decisions to support the 'delay' stage of the virus by limiting footfall through the school

- Collective Worship will be for children only.
- Tempest photographs will not be available for families with siblings outside of school. Individual and siblings within school will still be taken.

Pupils should attend school unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**:

- a new, continuous cough and/or
- a temperature

If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally, by telephoning the school office on 0191 9172484. It is important that you notify school before 9am every day that your child is absent.

All planned trips are to be cancelled from today, including swimming lessons.

Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) are still planned to take place later this year. Year 2 children will be assessed during May and Year 6 SATs are still planned for the week beginning Monday 11th May 2020. Year 1 Phonics Screening will take place on the week beginning Monday 8 June 2020 and the Year 4 Multiplication Table Check will be administered between Monday 8 June and Friday 26 June.

We will keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation via the school Facebook page and text messaging service.

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Email: enquiries@wsj.org.uk

Headteacher: Mrs J Black

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What we are doing to protect and support pupils and staff

When a pupil is feeling ill on the school premises we will take care of them in a room away from other pupils; they will be supervised by a senior member of staff. We will telephone you as soon as possible and ask you to come and pick up the child as quickly as possible.

If a member of staff becomes ill on the school premises they will be immediately sent home to recover. We will recruit supply teachers to cover staff absence.

The school daily cleaning schedule continues. Particular attention is paid to surfaces and door handles.

Children will be directed to wash their hands when they arrive, before eating and after playing outside.

Information on hygiene will be given in classes and child showing signs of anxiety will be given advice and support.

What we need you to do

- Please come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to. (We will contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough.)
- If you have recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via email at enquiries@wsj.org.uk or by telephoning 0191 9172484.
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It may be a worrying time for them and we should make sure they feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety
- It is important to stay away from elderly and other vulnerable people, hospitals and GP surgeries. NHS 111 has online advice and are asking people to try to avoid ringing them as they're overwhelmed.

Please contact me if I can be of further assistance and please be assured that we will respond to any new advice given. We will keep you updated of any changes to the current circumstances at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Black
Head Teacher

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