



Autumn First Half Term 2020

A copy of this newsletter can be found on our school website

www.washingtonstjosephs.com

Please put this somewhere safe as it contains a great deal of important information!

It is wonderful to see all our children back after such a long absence! They have come back and brought our school to life again with their smiles and laughter. It has also been lovely to see our wider families; we've missed the Mums, Dads, younger siblings, the grandparents, carers and childminders. A huge thank you for your patience and understanding with our new routines. We have been very touched by all the kind words and messages of support.

Retirements

In July we sadly said goodbye to Mrs Matthews who took retirement after serving our school community for 21 years. Mrs Matters has delayed her retirement until October, when she will retire on Friday 23rd October, after over 21 years. We are sure you join with us in wishing them both a long and happy retirement.

New Staff

This term we warmly welcome three new members of staff to our school community. Mrs Burdis will be covering for Mrs Hughes in the Nursery until her return, Mrs Gardiner is new in our office and Mrs Burgess is new supporting across Key Stage 2.

Nursery and Reception

It is beautiful to see our new starters taking their first steps into St Joseph's. Mams, Dads and Grandparents keep being brave. The kids will be fine, it's you we worry about! Don't forget to login to Tapestry to see what they've been up to each day.

Facebook/Website

It is increasingly common for schools to use Facebook as a way of sharing key events as they happen in school. Also visit our school website where you can find everything from policies to class pages.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stjosephswashington>

Website: www.washingtonstjosephs.com

Communication

Our Teachers2Parents E-mailing service has proved invaluable over the last few months. Please ensure school has an up-to-date e-mail address in order for you to receive all relevant correspondence.

School Office

For the safety of our staff, our school office remains closed to visitors unless by appointment. If you need us, please contact the office via telephone 0191 917 2484 or e-mail enquiries@wsj.org.uk so we can support you, your child and answer any questions.

Medical Appointments

In order for school to keep records of medical appointment absences as well as knowing when children are being collected or returned, we ask that appointment letters are **e-mailed** to the office at enquiries@wsj.org.uk

Arrival and Departures

We are pleased to see how well the children are following the arrival and departure routines.

Arrivals

During arrivals however, parents must **not** enter the children's lines or cross the area dedicated to children's lines. A clear exit path has been marked on the yard for parents to follow. Keeping to the staggered entry times should allow parents to follow our 'Drop & Go' system. For the safety of both parent and staff, parents are kindly requested not to approach the staff on duty with messages for the teacher - these should be sent in via telephone (0191 917 2484) or e-mail to the office (enquiries@wsj.org.uk) Office staff man the phones from 8.15am each day.

Departures

Please follow our 'Collect & Leave' system for departures. We are aware many parents/carers have a number of children to collect- please arrive in time to collect your child whose time is the latest. Your other child/ren will be kept safely with their class teacher; this will avoid you standing on a crowded yard waiting and allow you to 'Collect & Leave' once you arrive. For the safety of all adults on the yard, please follow the 2m social distancing guidelines with each other and leave as soon as you have your child/children.

Staggered Times	Siblings - 8.45 am
Nursery 8.50 am-11.45 am	Reception 9.00 am-3.05 pm
Year 1 8.55 am-3.05 pm	Year 2 8.50 am-3.10 pm
Year 3 9.00 am-3.15 pm	Year 4 8.55 am-3.05 pm
Year 5 8.50 am-3.00 pm	Year 6 8.55 am-3.15 pm

Morning Fruit

Our EYFS and KS1 receive free fresh fruit or vegetables to enjoy during their morning break. This year we invite KS2 to **bring** their own fresh fruit/vegetable (e.g. apple, carrot, cucumber sticks, banana, strawberries, grapes) to enjoy during morning break. This must be fresh fruit or vegetables - no alternatives are allowed.

Forgotten Items

Due to the current situation, we kindly ask parents/carers not to deliver forgotten items to the office unless **absolutely necessary**. Children who forget packed lunches will be provided with a hot school lunch or sandwich option at a cost of £2.20.

Water Bottles

Nursery children have been provided with a school water bottle.

Children from Reception to Year 6 should arrive in school with their own full water bottle. Staff would usually have a spare drinking cup for children to take a drink if they have no water bottle, but under the current conditions this is not possible. For children on school meals, water and juice is available during the lunch sitting.

Bags and Book bags

We ask that this term our blue school book bags are *left at home*. There will be no weekly homework or home reading books to carry. Children should only bring to school their PE Kit, a packed lunch bag if needed and a water bottle.

Should any key letters, children's work or other items need to go home - staff will ensure these are in children's trays on a Friday and left untouched for 72 hours before being taken home on Monday.

Homework and Home Reading

In keeping with our Risk Assessment, we are minimising the transfer of books and paper between home and school. Homework for Reception will be via Tapestry, and for Year 1 to Year 6 via Seesaw. Home Reading will be using Rising Stars Reading Planet. Homework will begin week beginning Monday 14th September. Should you have any issues which mean your child is unable to access these platforms regularly, please do not hesitate to contact Mr O'Keeffe at enquiries@wsj.org.uk.

Music

We are pleased to share that peripatetic music teachers such as RockSteady, the Y2 Violin teacher and the guitar teacher can return to teaching music in St Joseph's. This will begin once all risk assessments have been completed.

Uniform and P.E. Kits

The children are all looking smart but we already have some lost property! We cannot stress enough the importance of labelling ALL your child's clothes and belongings. Staff will always try to help locate lost items, but without names inside, this can be very frustrating and near impossible. All uniform, including PE kit and book bags can be purchased at Little Gems in the Galleries or on-line at <https://theschooloutfit.co.uk/collections/st-joseph-washington-rc-school>.

Year 6- Faith in Action

This year, just like last year, Year 6 will demonstrate their faith in action over the course of the year in order to achieve their 'Faith in Action' bronze pin. An award they can continue into silver and gold at St Robert's. This half term Year 6 will lead our Harvest celebrations and virtually lead classes in The Rosary during October.

Harvest Food Monday 5th October - Thursday 8th October

Now, more than ever, our local food banks are asking for our support. This year we ask for donations for the food bank to be brought onto the yard and placed in the collection boxes. These boxes will be outside at various drop off/pick up points. All donations will remain untouched for 72 hours before collection by the food bank. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

CAFOD Family Fast Day - Friday 9th October

This year the theme is 'A harvest like no other'. To finish our harvest collection week, Year 6 will lead the school in a virtual assembly.

Parents' Evening

We are currently exploring ways in which this important dialogue between parent and teacher can take place safely. Information regarding this will be shared via e-mail as soon as final decisions and arrangements have been made. However, teachers can be contacted via the school office using e-mail or telephone should there be any issues to discuss. Teachers will also use Tapestry and Seesaw to share your child's learning and school experiences with you.

Payments to school

At this time, we request that all payments for music lessons and school meals are made using the on-line payment system at Sunderland City Council website's 'Pay for it' system:

<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=7866>

School Dinners and Packed Lunches

A school meal costs £2.20 per day (£11 per week)

Lunch money must be paid by **Monday morning** using the on-line payment system at Sunderland City Council website's 'Pay for it' system:

<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=7866>

If your child is in KS1 and is having a packed lunch, the kitchen can provide a packed lunch as part of the KS1 Free School Meals provision.

Two weeks' notice must be given to the office via phone/e-mail if you wish to change between school meals to packed lunches.

Returning Resources

Please return any resources sent home during lockdown, such as textbooks, reading books and computer equipment as soon as possible, in a plastic bag so these can be quarantined for 72 hours before being returned to our resource areas.

Long hair, earrings, jewellery and nail varnish

Long hair must be tied up or back. Children should not be wearing earrings or jewellery in school as it is a genuine danger to their safety. There are no exceptions to this rule. Please ensure all nail varnish is removed as make-up is not permitted in school.

Wrap-around Care

St Joseph's has two external independent providers providing wrap around care. Buttons Breakfast club runs from 7.45am until the start of the school day, in the school hall. Village Kidz provide after-school childcare and are using the school hall until further notice.

As these are being run by external organisations, staff at school cannot answer any queries you have on this and all questions and queries should be made directly with:

Stacey Button (SBCC) telephone 07946490096 for Buttons Breakfast Club

Mrs Muir and Mrs Jacklin via their Village Kidz Facebook page for afterschool childcare

Safeguarding

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School safeguards and protects its pupils and staff and is committed to respond in accordance with Sunderland Local Safeguarding children Board procedures. Mrs Black is the Designated Safeguarding Officer and Mr O'Keeffe and Mrs Swanston are the Designated Deputy Safeguarding Officers.

Please note the following advice given by Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust

Coronavirus symptoms and self-isolation

Q: What happens if your child or someone they live with has coronavirus symptoms?

If your child or someone they live with have coronavirus symptoms: a high temperature; a new continuous cough; a loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste:

*The person displaying symptoms must get a test to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible

*Stay at home and do not have visitors until the test result is received – only leave home to have a test

* Anyone they live with, and anyone in the support bubble, must also stay at home until the test result is received.

If the test result is positive, the symptomatic person must self-isolate for at least 10 days from when their symptoms started, with a household isolation of 14 days.

Isolation for the whole household ends immediately if the test result is negative, or after 14 days.

This information is taken directly from the NHS website

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>