



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
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22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, thank you for your hard work and dedication in ensuring that your child's education has continued at home, often in inspiring and creative forms, and for continuing to support your children during what has, and continue to be difficult times.

The School continues to work collaboratively with a range of organisations to ensure that we are basing our plans on the most current, up-to-date information and guidance. This is enabling us to be reassured in making the right decisions, giving us confidence for a robust plan.

Partial re-opening

Following the Government's announcement, St Joseph's is dedicated to ensuring that our plans for a partial opening are gradual, and most importantly keep our learners and staff safe.

We do not expect to have a definitive answer on dates from the Government until the 28th of May. Assuming the Government recommends schools start to re-open from 1st June or when it is safe to do so.

Key worker children: school will be open from 1st of June

Reception class and Year 1: school will be open from 8th of June, (or when it is safe to do so) aiming for full-time attendance.

We will contact Reception and Year 1 parents week beginning 1st of June with more details re timings, risk assessments and the group, teacher and class your child has been allocated to.

Year 6: We hope to be able to bring Year 6 back at a later date. This is dependent on space and staff capacity, to ensure everyone's safety. In the meantime, we are hoping to offer some enhanced learning provision via online platforms for Year 6.

Year 2-5: These year groups will continue to be sign posted to online learning, although this might not be in the same depth, as more staff will be involved in teaching in school.



"Together we love, together we hope, together we learn."

Please note: the Local Authority will not issuing fines to any parents that choose not to send their child to school.

Risk assessment and mitigation

We understand this situation can bring anxiety and worries. However, rest assured that as a family of staff, we understand those concerns and want to help in any way we can. The welfare of our children, their families and our staff are key.

Whilst we are acutely conscious of the current situation, we are working extremely hard to mitigate the risks we face. As we are sure you can imagine, there are a vast number of elements to consider. We are doing all we can to make our school remain a controlled and safe environment.

There is an element of risk involved in everything that we do; sending your child back into school will be a personal choice for you.

The school has purchased stocks of sanitiser, disinfectant, face masks and gloves along with other equipment. Strict routines and protocols will be followed by our staff, to ensure that your children are as safe and protected in their school environments as they can be.

We understand that every child will have had a different experience over the last few months, affecting them in many ways. Some will be anxious about leaving the safety of the home, while others will be desperate to see their friends again and may struggle when they realise the school they are returning to is not the exactly the same as the one they left. There may even be a few who embrace this 'new normal' and not look back.

Re-opening approach

This initial period will be supportive, listening to their worries and helping them move forward both as learners and as cherished and confident members of our community.

It is essential for everyone's wellbeing, that our mind-set is focused on understanding that this gradual, partial reopening plan is focussed on:

1. Small, thought out, well assured steps
2. Establishing and reviewing, step by step, routines and protocols; we will refine as necessary
3. Understanding that the whole country is in the same position
4. A gradual process which will involve pupils attending school. We will limit class sizes and the number of children in school
5. An understanding that this gradual return will involve a completely different 'curriculum' to that which teachers and our children are used to. We will be unable to continue with the 'normal' as this is far from a normal situation.

As things stand at the moment, the following are likely to be implemented upon this partial opening, however we do realise that the 2m social distancing rule will be at times impossible to keep with younger children, particularly when they are outside:

- The timings of the school day will have to alter, with some children arriving earlier or later than normal and some being collected earlier or later.
- Lunches can be ordered we are not sure yet whether we will be able to provide a hot lunch or just a packed lunch. Pupils will eat in their learning rooms or outdoors.

- Breaks and lunch times will be staggered for different groups.
- Learners will attend school in their own clothes so that they can be washed/changed regularly.
- Year groups will be split in half to form smaller learning groups; your child may not have their own teacher or be in their own classroom.
- Learners will keep to the same classroom with the same staff, and other people will not enter that classroom or mix with them throughout the day.
- Learners will sit at the same desk, which will be separated according to social distancing regulations.
- Outdoor space will be used, or considered for use, weather permitting, as part of the revised curriculum.
- Outdoor equipment will not be used unless it is thoroughly cleaned between users.
- Strict hygiene protocols will be followed, such as desks and door handles being disinfected regularly and wiped down, and bins will be emptied throughout the day.
- Soft play equipment will be removed.
- Corridors will only be accessed for toileting
- Classrooms will be accessed from 'outside'. These entrances will be used to avoid walking through other areas of the school.
- Toilets will have a system that limit children at any one time, as far as possible, and each group will have their own toilet
- Staff will abide to social distancing guidelines, including a limited amount of staff allowed in the staff room and other communal areas at any one time.
- Parents will be asked to call or email the school with enquiries rather than coming to the school office.
- Parent drop-offs and pick-ups will be 'distanced', with only one parent/carer present and will be staggered for year groups.
- **After School Club will only operate only for the key worker group.**
- **School will be closed on Friday afternoons (children to be collected by 1.00pm) to allow for deep cleaning.**
- **There will be no ASC on Friday afternoon**

"Bubbles" – grouping of pupils

Pupils will be allocated to a small group and a teacher. They will remain together during the day and will not interact with pupils in other "bubbles".

We realise that some of you indicated you would not be sending your child back into school however we will still allocate your child a group should you change your mind at a later date.

After school club remains available for key worker children only. The Government recommends that all key worker children should go back into their own year group. This means they will no longer be allowed to access the ASC as that would lead to cross overs between 'bubbles. If you

need your children to attend the ASC and they are in R and Year 1 please contact the school via email and we will try our best to accommodate your request.

We will contact Reception and Year 1 parents week beginning 1st of June with more details re timings, risk assessments and the group, teacher and class your child has been allocated to. In the mean time you can read the full risk assessment for the re-opening of the school on the web site Parents/Covid 19 information.

We would like to thank you all again for your resilience, hard work, and positive and encouraging support of the school and staff so far, and would ask that you remain patient with us whilst we finalise plans and decisions. As soon as we have these, we will share them with you and will continue to communicate with you over the coming days and weeks.

Please stay safe and look after yourselves and one another.

God Bless

Elaine M Jackson
Head Teacher
St Joseph's Primary School
Portishead

Michael Flexman
Chair of Governors
St Joseph's Primary School
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