



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Bristol Road
Portishead
North Somerset
BS20 6QB
☎ 01275 848367

Headteacher: Mrs E Jackson
Deputy Headteacher: Mr G Bath
E-mail: office@st-josephs.org.uk
Website: www.st-josephs.org.uk

Friday 15th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well so much can happen in a week as we know from recent experience! I still want to reassure you that we are working hard with all the staff and Governors to make sure that we get this right for you and your children. I just wanted to highlight a few points from recent Government publications.

What we know so far:

- Sadly, we will not be returning to 'normal' in the near future.
- Schools **may** reopen from 1st June to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils **if** the government thinks it is safe then to do so. We must stress this is still a provisional date and the guidance says to consider increasing the number of pupils in school from June onwards, *not specifically on June 1st*. The proposal to begin the recovery of schools from June onwards is **still contingent upon the public health criteria being met**.
- Schools in England currently remain closed for most pupils except for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children.
- The current guidance is that teaching groups must remain separated from each other and the critical worker group to reduce the probability of cross-contamination.
- In order to keep classes to the stated maximum number of 15 pupils it is possible that children may not be able to attend a full week and will return on a part time basis and/ or that we operate a phased return. It also potentially means that pupils may return and not be with their normal Class teacher or all their usual classmates.
- We will continue planning home learning activities for pupils in year groups not returning to school, but this may be on a reduced scale if the teaching staff are likely to be involved in school-based teaching.

We don't know yet:

- When the government will confirm the date for the phased reopening of schools.
- How we will operate in terms of the school day and classroom allocation to maintain safety recommendations.



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



- The exact health and safety measures that will be put in place.
- Whether we have enough staff able to provide the cover for the numbers of children returning.

We have already sent a letter out to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 parents with a link to a Google Poll, it is really important that parents return the poll as soon as possible so we can continue with our planning.

I continue to find strength in prayer that God will help us through these difficult times and decisions.

Church news

St Joseph's, Portishead is supporting the Place of Mercy and Hope and Christians Against Poverty. Details of the project are on our parish website at josephfrancis.org/outreach where you can also donate to the overseas projects (we begin fundraising for the home projects shortly). I'm very conscious that many people are finding things difficult in the current climate so may not be able to contribute, while others do have resources and are looking to support others, so wanted to share some information about the projects for those able and willing to support them.

We would normally have a **parish quiz** in aid of the projects. With the current situation the 'real life' quiz has had to be postponed, but we will be holding a virtual quiz for our projects on **Saturday 23 May from 8-9pm**. For more details and to sign up visit josephfrancis.org/quiz

If anyone is struggling financially at this time, please do let me know and I have some resources to support people.

Pentecost Sunday is on 31 May. On 30 May we will have a special Pentecost Vigil Mass at 8pm, while on Pentecost Sunday we will have a 'Praise Party' for our deanery at 8pm which will be an opportunity to pray and sing some uplifting hymns as we rejoice in the gift of Pentecost.

Many of you will have seen the wonderful **virtual choirs** that have been formed and produced some really uplifting music. We've decided this would be a great project for our parishes and would love you to take part. You can either play an instrument or sing and don't have to be particularly musically gifted. I think this will be great fun and an exciting project to be part of. If you'd like to join in, please contact Joseph Meigh who is coordinating this for us - joseph.meigh@cliftondiocese.com

We are also looking at offering the Alpha parenting courses. There is one for parenting teenagers and one for parenting younger children. If you'd be interested in either, do let me know.

We continue to offer a daily assembly/prayer time for primary age children at 9.40 on weekdays and Children's Liturgy at 10.30 on Sundays.

Do contact me for the zoom link if you'd like to join us.

frtom@josephfrancis.org.uk

Portishead Foodbank - Food Donations to No4 Combe Road, it is open between 9am-12noon to receive them. And distribution from No4, Friday 12noon-2pm including Bank holidays.

Yours in Christ

Fr Tom



Safeguarding

Be SMART: Online Safety Video Lessons for 6 - 9 year olds (Childnet)

Childnet have released six new easy-to-follow videos for parents and children to work through together. The 10 - 15 minute videos offer simple, clear online safety advice using fun activities, games and discussion. There are optional follow-up activities to extend children's learning.

The videos can be found here: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/video-lessons>

School web site

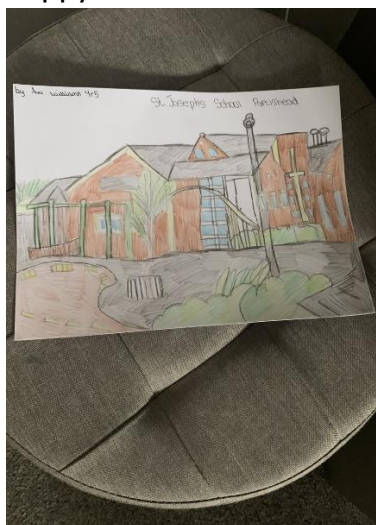
Please keep an eye on the school web site there will be regular Government updates that you will be sign posted to. There are also extra resources for home schooling and prayer, please go to parents/covid 19.

If you have any queries or you need help for any reason please e mail the office rather than phone as your message may not be picked up.

If you are having difficulties logging on or have forgot your password, you can e mail Mr Bath and he will help you out.

greg.bath@stjoes.org.uk

Thank you to Ava (year 5) for this lovely picture of the school, it made me feel incredibly happy.



Thank you again for your continued support during this difficult time. We really do appreciate it. We continue to be committed to doing our absolute best for the whole school community in these unprecedented times and I will keep you up to date with the latest news via e mail and the website.

God Bless

Mrs Jackson

*'God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can,
and wisdom to know the difference.'*

