



Education Resources

Executive Director **Tony McDaid**

St Joseph's Primary School – Head Teacher Jacqueline Ross

Date: 05 Aug 2020

Dear Primary 1 Parent/Carer,

The time has come for your child to begin their school journey. A momentous and hugely memorable day for all young children and their families. We hope the children are full of excitement and eagerness to begin this new adventure. All St. Joseph's Primary School and Nursery Class staff are looking forward to welcoming our new Primary 1 children to their first days of school. All staff will support the children to settle and feel safe in this time of transition.

As a result of the Scottish Government's announcement on Thursday 30th July 2020, which outlined a full school return for all pupils by 18th August 2020, the previous arrangements outlined in June 2020 have been adjusted. The full document can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-preparing-start-new-school-term-august-2020/>.

In line with Scottish Government advice and letter of 3rd August from Tony McDaid, Executive Director Education Resources, South Lanarkshire Council, I write to advise you of our plans for a managed return for Primary 1 as per below:

Day / Date	Classes to Attend	Time Period
Tuesday 11 th August	INSET DAY for Staff only	School closed to all pupils
Wednesday 12 th August	Only the class listed for this date should attend. Room 1 Primary 1	10am to 2pm
Thursday 13 th August	Only the classes listed for this date should attend. Room 1 Primary 1	9.00am to 3.00pm
Monday 17 th	All pupils – full return	9.00am to 3.00pm Specific details to follow in whole school update.

Specific Primary 1 Arrangements for Arrival and Dismissal

On Wednesday the 12th August, Gate A will be opened from 9.40am.

- Only one parent/carer will be permitted to enter the school grounds due to current Covid -19 safety guidelines.
- The playground area is a wide accessible space for photographs. The Trim Trail will be closed.
- Please make your way to the Blue Zone which will be clearly marked.
- Primary 1 children will enter through their class door from 9.45am to 10.00am.
- Staff will be available to direct the children to hand sanitise on entry.
- Familiar staff will be available to support this transition.
- Children will be dismissed from their class door to only one parent/carer at 2pm.
- Once you have collected your child please exit the playground as quickly as possible.
- Due to safety guidance and 2m distancing measures, parents will not be permitted to enter the building on this occasion.

From Thursday 13th August, Primary 1 pupils should arrive between 8.45am and 9am.

- It is recommended that Primary 1 children continue to enter the playground through Gate A, especially in the early weeks of school, and proceed directly to the Blue Zone, next to their class.
- One adult will be permitted to accompany your child to their class door until Friday 21st August 2020 after which the children will proceed independently from the gate.
- Staff will support the children to transition to their classroom and follow hand sanitising procedures.
- Children will be dismissed from their class door to one parent/carer at 3pm.
- Once you have collected your child please exit the playground promptly.

Further details on arrival and dismissal arrangements and relevant safety information will follow in an update to the whole school. Please note adults are asked to maintain 2m social distancing from other adults and from children of other households. Where this is difficult, our advice would be to wear a face covering where possible. We are required to keep the number of visitors to the school to a minimum, in accordance with national guidance. Any contact with the school should be made by telephone or email to the office in the first instance.

Additional parent information is also available on the National Parent Forum:

<https://www.npfs.org.uk/2020/07/23/back-to-school-guidance-for-parents-and-carers/>

Further advice, in line with national and South Lanarkshire Council guidelines, will be issued via the school website and twitter as it becomes available.

If you have specific questions in relation to these arrangements which is not covered in the advice given, please contact the school office on telephone number 01698 825121 or email address office@st-josephs-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk.

Although circumstances are different this year, we will fully endeavour to make the children's first week at school as happy and safe as possible. To help you keep a momento of your child's very special first day at school, staff will take photographs of them in their classroom and school environment and upload them to the school website and Twitter once you have approved the use of photographs for media purposes. Information on how to approve this use will follow at the start of the school term. Protocols on the use of media and Twitter will also be provided to support you to access these photographs. This information can take a few weeks to gather so please be reassured that the photographs will be uploaded as soon as possible.

I wish the children every best wish for their first day at school and beyond.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind Regards

Claire-Louise Mullen

Depute Head Teacher