



Education Resources

Executive Director **Tony McDaid**

St Joseph's Primary School – Head Teacher Jacqueline Ross

Date: 08 Aug 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Prior to returning to school, some parents/carers may wish to begin to prepare the children for some of the new experiences they will encounter on their return to school. Staff will explain and practise safety measures and new routines to enable the children to feel confident in their application. All health and safety protocols are being implemented in accordance with Scottish Government and South Lanarkshire Council Covid -19 guidance for a full school return of pupils. A child friendly version of health and safety information will be uploaded to the school website on week beginning 11th August 2020. For further information please refer to:

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

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

What to Expect?

Health and Safety

Primary school children are not required to physically distance. However, it is recommended that large gatherings and crowded spaces are avoided. Staff will maintain a 2m distance from children where possible. Children should be aware that staff may choose to wear masks at any time. Staff involved in specific additional care needs support and First Aid processes will follow guidance on the recommended use of appropriate PPE in specific circumstances. There is no requirement on children to wear masks within the school building, in the playground or on designated school transport. Masks are compulsory for children using public transport during peak times. Please note all adults are asked to maintain 2m social distancing from other adults and from children of other households.

Effective personal hygiene measures will be promoted for infection control. Rigorous hand sanitising regimes will be implemented. Children will be reminded of coughing and sneezing etiquette and encouraged to refrain from touching their faces.

Children will have individual trays and resources. Sharing of school resources will be kept to a minimum. Any shared school resources will be kept to small groups and cleaned between use. Children should not bring toys or share personal resources. Children will have designated seats. Indoor class doors will remain open at all times. Toilet procedures restrict access to a limited number of children at any given time. A one-way system will operate in the school with designated up/downstairs directions clearly indicated.

Enhanced cleaning procedures will be implemented as per SLC guidelines.

Symptoms of Covid-19

Children will be guided that if they feel unwell they must inform a member of staff immediately. If the symptoms the child describes or in the event your child shows any signs of Covid-19, they will be isolated sensitively from others in a designated area. Parents/carers will be alerted and asked to collect them promptly. Scottish Government / NHS Scotland advice should then be followed which includes isolating at home and following NHS Inform and Test and Protect Guidance. It is essential that children or any adults who are symptomatic of Coronavirus do not attend school and instead self-isolate along with their household and follow NHS Inform and Test and Protect Guidance. If your child, someone in their household or a close contact is identified by contact tracers to have a confirmed case of Covid -19, NHS Contact Tracing will advise on next-steps. South Lanarkshire Council will be informed and the school will follow Health Protection protocol.

Curriculum

Learning in the first few weeks of term will be focused on Health and Well-being to cater for this period of adjustment. Literacy/English Language and Numeracy/ Mathematics will be implemented gradually to meet the needs of learners over time. RE will be included daily as part of our faith life. A whole school Health and Well-being activity grid will be uploaded to Google Classroom for children to participate in relevant activities in the days they are not due to attend school during the first managed return week.

Homework

Further information on homework will be provided after the children have had time to settle to school life.

Physical Education

Parents/cares will be advised of arrangements for PE as further guidance is reviewed. Children will be informed of their PE days. PE will be carried out outdoors as much as is possible. It is advised that children wear polo shirts on PE days to limit the need for changing. Initially, children will not be required to bring a change of shoes. (This may change in time and we will advise you of any changes)

Intervals/Lunches

Intervals and lunches will be staggered to minimise contact between different class/stage groups. Children will be made aware of their interval, lunch times and play zones by their class teachers. Children can bring a packed lunch to school. They should remember to bring it with them in the morning as we will not be able to accept lunch drop-offs through the school day. Playground zones are marked on the Playground Zone Map which has been issued with advice on arrival and dismissal arrangements.

Uniform

As intimated in the June correspondence, with so much change we feel that pupils need to wear school uniform to help them with their transition back to school.

- Pupils can wear shirt and tie.
- Shoes should be black or navy.
- Polo shirts to be worn on PE days. Gym shoes not required at this time.
- Pupils can bring a school bag, water bottle and lunch box which will be stored under their desks.
- There is no need for children to bring pencil cases – resources will be provided.
- Pupils should not share resources or food stuffs.

Mass Gatherings

No assemblies, Church Masses or other events which involve the mass gathering of children or adults will be conducted at this time.

Excursions and Events

No excursions or events will take place until further notice.

Breakfast Club

No Breakfast Club at this point. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

Communication with the School

I am sure all parents/carers will appreciate that it will be difficult for the school to operate our useful open door policy at this time. We wish to reassure parents/carers of the wide variety of forms of communication the school uses to keep our school community informed including email, Twitter and the school website. Parent Mail text will be used in the event of an emergency or to send information alerts. We strongly recommend you check these information sources regularly throughout the school year. If you do require to speak with a member of staff we would ask that you telephone the school in the first instance. I would ask that you **do not** come to the school without advanced notice and prior arrangement.

Many Thanks

I fully appreciate the adjustment families are making to support their children and the school during this period of change. I hope that although there is lots of information, it helps you to gently introduce the children to our 'new normal' for their return to school.

Kind Regards

Claire-Louise Mullen

Depute Head Teacher

