

Education Resources Executive Director – Tony McDaid

St Joseph's Primary School

27 Aug 2021

Dear Parent

A warm welcome back is extended to all of our returning children and their parents and a special welcome to our new pupils and parents.

The new session is underway and once again I would like to express my appreciation for the help and support given to the staff and myself and we look forward to closer and even more productive links in the future.

You have a central role to play if we are to achieve the best educational provision and experiences for your children and I welcome your contribution and advice. The atmosphere and reputation of St Joseph's Primary very much depends upon your support and observance of certain general rules, which create a happy school and an effective learning environment. I continue to request your support for these fair and essential expectations of our pupils.



Standards & Quality Report & School Improvement Plan

Our Standards & Quality report & our School Improvement Plan for this session have been completed. They outline our main developments for the coming session. A paper copy is available from the office should you wish one.

Risk Assessment

Education Resources & St Joseph's Primary & Nursery Class risk assessment is now available on our website. Please ensure that you take some time to read the important information within, to help you, our children and the staff stay as safe as they possibly can.

Can I remind you please that the school gates open at 8.45 am and 2.45 pm. We ask that you maintain a safe distance as you enter/leave the school grounds and to wear a face covering when entering/leaving the school grounds. I understand that this may cause some confusion but all measures around infection control in school and nursery, are, in the main, to remain the same for around 6 weeks (till around the end of Sept, when another review will be undertaken by the Scottish Government and hopefully further relaxation of procedures will follow).



School Uniform

Many thanks to all of our parents for the wonderful return of every single pupil in full school uniform, our uniform is an excellent example of showing our identity and proclaiming our pride in our school. Lots of our children have returned to school wearing their school blazer – please encourage them to wear it throughout the year. The children look extremely smart in their white school shirts, ties, navy blue school skirts/trousers and blazers. Thank you also for encouraging **black** shoes for school. They are much more suitable than casual trainers. Please remember training shoes do not form part of our school uniform and should not be worn to and from school. As every child has a school uniform, please make sure your child wears it at all times, and has their name on all items of clothing. For safety reasons children must wear proper clothing for PE ie shorts, polo-shirts and soft shoes. Football colours should not be worn. Jewellery must not be worn during PE lessons as this could cause your child to have a serious accident.



Footwear in and Around School

Can we please ask that all of our children bring black plimsoles to change into. All of our children will have their own 'shoe box' to keep outdoor shoes in when they are in the building. Most areas in our school are carpeted and I would like your help to continue to keep these areas as clean as possible for as long as possible!

Bus Rules

Some of our children come to school on the bus. As always their safety whilst travelling to and from school is of paramount importance to the school and to you their parents. Please remind the children to behave sensibly on the bus at all times.



Behaviour Policy / School Rules

Children are expected to behave well at all times in the classroom, playground and on buses.

Our school policy on discipline, aims to promote positive attitudes to behaviour. Positive behaviour creates a positive atmosphere where effective learning and teaching takes place. The children, in discussion with their teachers, have once again decided what the school/class rules are to be for this session. As behaviour is a shared responsibility, we actively seek the support of our parents in promoting our class/school rules.



Security of Our School and Nursery

As you know the health and safety of our children is our priority in school and we strive to make St Joseph's a secure building. With this in mind, parents and visitors should use the **main entrance** when calling at the school. There are strict guidelines on security in schools and we must ensure the safety of our children at all times. Parents **should not** enter the yard while the children are playing. The fences and gates are there to further safeguard our children between 9.00 and 3.00pm

Absence & Latecoming

I would like to remind parents that –

- a) All children should be in the playground by 8.55am every morning ready to start at 9am.
- b) The school should be contacted before 9am if your child is going to be absent or late.

After 9.10am a member of our office staff will match all telephone calls to a list of children absent from school. The school will contact those parents who have not informed us of their child's absence.

If your child is absent from school then a note of explanation from you must be given on their return.

Please do your best to arrange routine visits to the dentist etc. outside of school hours.

School Safety

Could I ask for greater consideration when collecting children from school. Recently some parents have been parking in the staff and nursery car park when collecting children from school. Parents should not drop children off or pick up children from the staff car park. I plead with you all to re-evaluate your parking routine and show consideration to others. My only motivation for making this appeal is to ensure all children arrive and leave school safe and well. I also plead with all parents to be considerate of our children as they enter and leave school. Inconsiderate parking puts the safety of our children at risk – particularly around the bottom school entry gate at Park Lane. All cars entering Park Lane must take advice from our staff and please use the top end of Park Lane as a means to turn and exit this road. Parents/Taxis attempting to turn their car on the main road outside our school are not being considerate of those children trying to cross over this road to gain entry to our school. Please use the parking facilities at our Church and Church Hall at the top end of Park Lane or on Station Road.

Thank you for your assistance with this very important matter.

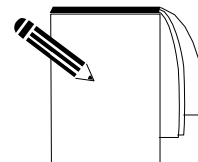
Car Free Zone

In November 2019 an information session and consultation exercise took place to propose the introduction of a car free zone around St Joseph's Primary & Nursery Class. Following on from this, the proposed date for implementation of the Car Free School Zone scheme to start is, Tuesday 28 September 2021, after the September weekend break.

In order to keep you up to date we have put a link on to our school website. Should you have any queries regarding this new scheme please refer to the information of this website in the first instance. Further details from the Traffic and Transport Team will follow over the next couple of weeks.

Update of Information

We are required to update our pupil records at the beginning of each year. This means several forms for you to check and complete. Please let us have these back as soon as possible.



Administration Form/ Educational Excursions

This form gives permission for your child to come with us to any educational outing we might arrange – visits to the local library, theatre etc. It also includes an update of medical information. It is, of course, very important that you keep the school informed about future changes in medical needs.

We need you to request a form for medicine administration or call at the school to sign the form giving us your permission to give medicines, if necessary. Written permission from you is required, even for a temporary cough bottle.

Family Holidays During Term Time

If your child is taken on a family holiday during term time then in line with the Scottish Executive Education Department advice, this will be classified as an unauthorised absence.

However, in exceptional circumstances schools may authorise a family holiday during term time as an authorised absence when for example, parents have difficulty obtaining leave out with the school holiday period and evidence is produced by the employer that it can not accommodate leave during school holiday periods.

If you have no choice but to keep your child from school for holidays we ask that you put this in writing to us.

About Dogs and Pets

We are all pet-lovers on our staff, but, regrettably, we need to ask that you do not bring pets into the school grounds. South Lanarkshire health and safety rules state that the grounds must be free of pets. This must include family pets. Sorry!

Holidays / In-service Days for this Session

Sep week-end	Fri 24, Mon 27 Sep
Mid-term	Mon 11 – Fri 15 Oct
In-service Days	Mon 15 Nov

Yours sincerely

**Jacqueline Ross
Head Teacher**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE