

St Joseph's Primary School

20th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The staff of St. Joseph's Primary School and Nursery Class wish to welcome all our children and families to school session 2020/2021. I wish to extend an especially warm welcome to our new children and their families, as they embark on their school journey. I hope that all children are excited to begin the new school year. The staff are delighted to be re-engaging with our children and are interested to learn more about their experiences over the very unusual past few months.



As we aim to move forward flexibly in these different and changing circumstances, I would like to reassure



all parents/carers that the school will continue to prioritise the health and safety of all children and their families. Our nurturing and aspirational values will continue to be central to school life. Our early focus in the school year will be to support the children to settle into school life, make attachments, implement new safety procedures and gradually adapt to school learning. Staff are fully committed to supporting the needs of all children during this period of transition towards a 'new normal' and will continue to offer fun, exciting and

challenging learning experiences and opportunities within the indoor and outdoor learning environment. Staff are exceptionally proud of the children for their ease of settlement and adherence to new safety measures. The children have demonstrated real flexibility, co-operation and commitment to adapting to changes in their environment and routines.

My huge thanks is extended to parents/carers for your support in implementing planned arrangements and ensuring compliance with COVID -19 risk mitigation safety guidelines. Parents/carers will continue to play a central pivotal role in supporting the school to provide the best educational provision through effective communication and quality partnerships. The safety of the children and staff and the reputation of St. Joseph's Primary School very much depends upon the whole school community's continued support and observance of health and safety guidelines, general rules and high expectations. I would like to take this opportunity to ask for your continued support, understanding and patience as the school adjusts to new unprecedented circumstances. ***Please refer to the 'What to Expect' and 'Arrival and Dismissal' documents published on the school website and Twitter for additional information on school procedures, safety measures, NHS Inform and Test and Protect guidance.***

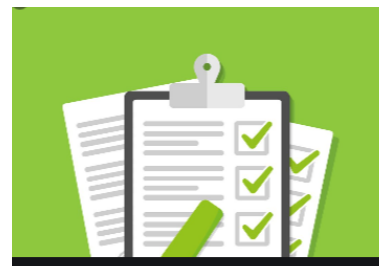


Standards and Qualities

A copy of the school and nursery Standards and Qualities Report has been compiled and will be available to view from the website in due course.

Annual Updates

Annual update packs will be forwarded to parents/carers, on Monday 24th August 2020, for completion and signing. Please return in the clear washable pocket provided by Friday 28th of August 2020.



School Communications



Many thanks to parents/carers for your co-operation in ensuring contact is made to the school via telephone call in the first instance. It is essential that the school conforms to Covid-19 risk mitigation guidelines by ensuring contact restrictions are strictly implemented. Please do not hesitate to call the school by telephone call on 01698

825121 or email office@st-josephs-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk. Please do not attend the school without prior approval or pre-arranged appointment. I strongly recommend regular view of the school website, Twitter and email for ongoing school communication. Support staff **will not** be available to collect children from classes for early dismissal during the period 2.30pm and 3pm.



School Uniform

Many thanks to parents/cares for assisting the children to present to school in full school uniform. I fully appreciate your support in dressing the children so well for school especially in the current circumstances. As reminder:

Pupils can wear shirt and tie.

Shoes should be black or navy.

Polo shirts to be worn on PE days.



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.

Please ensure the children bring a **waterproof jacket** to school to enable them to participate in outdoor activities. If the children are wearing blazers, a light waterproof jacket can be stored in their school bag.

PE

PE will commence week beginning Monday 24th September. PE will currently be carried out outdoors. It is advised that children wear polo shirts on PE days to limit the need for changing. Gym shoes are predicted to be re-introduced on Tuesday 29th September 2020.

Snacks and Lunches

Intervals and lunches have been staggered to minimise contact between different class/stage groups.



Children sanitise their hands before and after eating and are seated in their play zones within the dining hall. Children should remember to bring water bottles, snacks and lunches with them in the morning as we will not be able to accept drop-offs through the school day. School lunches will be provided for children who forget their lunch and information communicated to parent/carer. To take account of pupil allergies and Covid -19 safety measures, I ask that children do not share food or drink and that they do not bring fizzy drinks or any food containing nuts. It would be very helpful if parents/carers can ensure that the children's lunches or snacks are prepared in such a way that the children can access the food or drink independently e.g. snacks opened, drinks opened with lid secured or straw packaging opened etc. This measure is to avoid touch contact with food packaging for pupil and staff safety. Parent Pay can now be used to purchase milk (link available on website). Menu updates available online https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200259/education_benefits/291/school_lunches/2



Mobile Phones

Given that mobile phones cannot currently be stored at the school office, I ask that children do not bring mobile phones to school. Mobile phones must not be stored in children's jackets or bags.

Car Park/ School Environments

School parents should not park in the staff car park for pupil safety. Only 1 adult per child/family permitted to enter school grounds for collection, at a 2m distance from adults and children of other households. If social distancing is difficult, the wearing of a face covering is recommended. Dog's are not permitted in the school grounds. Please vacate the playground promptly.



Holidays / In-service Days for this Session

Sep week-end Fri 25, Mon 28 Sept

Mid-term Mon 12 – Fri 16 Oct

Dates for the Diary *(As result of Covid-19 restrictions, there are no additional planned events at this time.)*

19th August 2020 – Virtual Start of the Year School Mass – live streamed from St. Joseph's RC

8th September 2020 - PTA Microsoft Teams Meeting at 6pm TBC

8th September 2020 - Parent Council Microsoft Teams Meeting at 7pm TBC

20th September 2020—ECO Week

Yours sincerely

Claire-Louise Mullen
Depute Head Teacher

