

St. Joseph's PS & NC



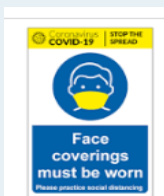
03.11.20

November School News Update

The months of August to October challenged our whole school community to work together to implement a range of new safety guidelines. I am delighted to be in a position to thank our children, members of staff and families for all the good-will, flexibility and understanding shown to the school and nursery in these unprecedented times. As part of planned ongoing 'Pupil Voice' surveys, it was reassuring to note that the children communicated that they feel "safe" and "protected" by our safety measures and that they feel that learning, although different, is still "fun". It was hugely encouraging that even our youngest children were well able to describe our safety measures and the reasons for each safety rule. In the interests of pupil and staff health and safety, we ask that all members of our school community continue to follow National and SLC guidance to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

Face Coverings # Important Information!

Following the Scottish Government's update on Covid-19 Risk Mitigation Guidance for Scottish Schools, face coverings should be worn by parents/carers and other visitors to the school site (whether entering the building or otherwise), including parents/carers at drop-off and pick-up times, unless exempt for medical reasons. Staff and adults in the school building will also be required to wear face coverings in communal areas, when moving around the school setting and where a 2m distance cannot be maintained between adults or adults and children, with the exception of in Primary 1 and 2, whereby Early Learning and Childcare guidance can be implemented. Parents/carers can be reassured that children are already familiar with staff wearing face coverings and other forms of PPE on a regular basis.



Learning / Play

PE will take place indoors or outdoors if the local area is within Level 0 to 3. PE is restricted to outdoor lessons when the local area is in Level 4. Children should continue to wear a waterproof jacket to school for PE and other forms of outdoor learning and play. In the winter, it would be advisable for children to change into jogging trousers for PE instead of shorts if the local area is in Level 4. Classes will continue to be well ventilated at safe temperatures, in accordance with SLC specifications for the winter months. I would recommend that children wear or keep a school jumper/cardigan in their school bag over the winter months for use if they feel cold.

Google Classroom

Many thanks to teachers and parents/carers for supporting the children to accept Google Classroom invitations and to access learning online. It is exceptionally helpful if the children continue to develop their skills in using Google Classroom to facilitate home learning in the event of self-isolation, class or school closures. Children have been trained in marking their work 'as done' to demonstrate to their teacher that they have accessed and completed tasks. Some children are selecting to upload photographs of completed tasks for teacher view. Information on how to upload pictures can be found on Google search for your individual device, as guidance differs for device types.

Education Resources
Executive Director: Mr Tony McDaid
Head Teacher: Mrs Jacqueline Ross

Timeline November 2020

- 02.11.20 - 3.00pm– 6.00pm

Rm1& Rm2 Parent Communications Calls

- 03.11.20 - 3.00pm– 6.00pm

Rm3 & Rm7 Parent Communications Calls

P1 Zoom Meet 6.00pm—6.40pm

- 04.11.20

Rm4 & Rm8 Parent Communications Calls

P2-7 Zoom Meet 6.00pm –6.40pm

- 05.11.20

Rm5 & Rm6 Parent Communications Calls

- 09.11.20

Rm9 Parent Communications Calls

PE can take place indoors if Level 0-3

PE will continue outdoors if Level 4

- 10.11.20

Rm10 Parent Communications Calls

- 16.11.20

Inset Day – School closed to pupils

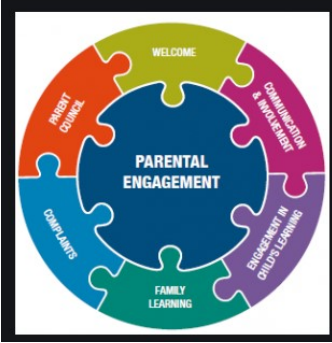
- 17.11.20

P4 Reconciliation in school (pupils only)

Please follow NHS Inform, Test and Protect and Contact Tracing Guidance!

Please do not attend school if your child or member of your household is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or if you have been advised by contact tracers to self-isolate.

Parental Engagement



Parental Engagement Weeks will take place from Monday 2nd November to Thursday 12th November 2020. Parents/carers who requested call times have now received allocated times. Reminder that class teachers will make two attempts of eight rings to make contact at approximately the allocated time. Phone lines will be closed to external calls from 3pm to 6pm to enable class teachers to use the two outside school / nursery phone lines available. The School Leadership Team have forwarded Zoom Meet information to those parents/ carers who requested to join. We are all hoping (praying) that the technology works remotely and we look forward to meeting with you virtually. We will do our very best to answer the questions you have kindly provided to help us understand the types of information that would be

most beneficial. The Zoom Meet Waiting Room will open from 6pm to 6.10pm. The 'Meets' will begin at 6.10pm and run to approximately 6.40pm. I would ask that all cameras are turned on and mics are muted on entry to the meeting. If you have an additional question during the 'Meet' please type it into the chat option or raise your hand using the raised hand tool. We will do our best to answer relevant questions. Easy questions please!! We will not answer questions relating to your own children or specific classes to ensure confidentiality for children and families. Highlights of school and nursery learning from August to October will be published on the school website and Google Classroom on the evening of Thursday 5th November 2020 for view on Friday 6th November 2020. We hope that these video presentations offer opportunities for parents/carers and children to celebrate learning and achievements with their families. The staff team hope that this range of parental engagement opportunities help to continue to promote and sustain strong parent partnerships in these challenging times and allow for meaningful interaction between school and families.

Reconciliation

The children of Primary 4, who were due to make their First Reconciliation during the period of school closure, will now celebrate this Sacrament on Tuesday the 17th November 2020 at 1.45pm in the school hall. Due to restrictions, Fr Lamb and the school have been advised that Reconciliations should take place in the school building rather than St. Joseph's RC. As a result, 'Covid-19 Guidelines for Schools' must be followed for this Holy occasion. I hope to reassure parents/ carers that Health and Safety protocols will be complied with at all times.

Children from different classes will make their Sacrament separately. Children will be seated in their dinner hall seating positions to maintain safety measures. As an added safety precaution, children will be seated to the side of a perspex screen for receipt of the Sacrament. Priests will wear face coverings to comply with rules on face coverings and distancing. It is with regret that unfortunately, parents/carers/ Godparents or family members will not be able to attend on this date. I fully understand that this is a significant moment in your child (ren)'s faith life and one, that as parents/carers, you would have hoped to have been participative in. Staff will photograph the children on this special day and upload photos to the school website for you to view with the children.



Eco Day



The children reported, at our Virtual School Assembly, that they thoroughly enjoyed participating in exciting Eco Day activities. The 'Scavenger Hunt' seems to be a firm favourite activity in many classes. Hopefully the seeds planted will bloom for a colourful spring.

Many thanks for your support of the children, our school and nursery and your continued compliance with National and South Lanarkshire Council Health and Safety Guidelines.

Yours sincerely
Claire - Louise Mullen
Depute Head Teacher

