

St. Joseph's PS & NC



December School News Update

26.11.20

Dear Parents/ Carers,

A huge thank you to all children, school and nursery families for their continued support and understanding during these highly unusual Pandemic times. I wish to take this opportunity to reassure parents/carers that the school and nursery continue to work tirelessly to implement current National and SLC guidelines aimed at mitigating the risk of Covid-19 transmission and have amended risk assessments to take account of Tier 4 Level restrictions. Children are demonstrating exceptional flexibility and resilience and are working hard to engage in learning.

December is an unusually quiet month for the School, Nursery and PTA this year with Christmas Fayre, Nativities and traditional Christmas parties cancelled due to Covid –19. Please see the 'Christmas is Coming' section of this letter for further information.

Tier 4 PE Update

As a result of Tier 4 restrictions, PE will take place in the outdoors whilst South Lanarkshire remains within Tier 4. We would ask that children wear a waterproof jacket to school over the winter period and wear or store a school jumper in their bag. It is recommended that children wear polo shirts and **bring** a pair of dark coloured jogging trousers/ leggings to **change** into for PE during the winter months. Children in school should continue to wear school uniform skirts, pinafores or trousers on PE days. Jogging trousers / leggings **should not** be worn as school uniform. In the event of particularly inclement weather or in the event of specific weather warnings, PE will be postponed. If the local area returns to Tier 3, indoor PE can resume.

Mini Nursery Gate Locked 8.45am to 2.55pm.

The mini Nursery Gate which allows families with prams to enter and exit the school grounds at 2.55pm is locked between the hours of 8.45am and 2.55pm for safety reasons. It is essential that all school pupils entering the school premises do so through Gates A, B and C, as indicated on the Playground Map on the website. This safety precaution is set to ensure a member of staff is present at the gate to support entry and to prevent children from exiting unsupervised. We apologise for any inconvenience caused to nursery families who also have children in the school but the safety of the children must be our paramount consideration.

Education Resources

Executive Director: Mr Tony McDaid

Head Teacher: Mrs Jacqueline Ross

Timeline December 2020

01.12.20

[PTA Zoom Meet 6pm](#)

[Parent Council Zoom Meet 7pm](#)

08.12.20

[School Class Advent Celebrations on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception / Unveiling of the Nativity Scene / Crib](#)

16.12.20

[Christmas Ho Ho Ho Themed Day](#)

22.12.20

[School / Nursery Close at 2.30pm for Christmas Holidays](#)

25.12.20

[Merry Christmas to ALL](#)

01.12.20

[Happy New Year](#)

06.01.21

[School and Nursery Reopen](#)

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.

Parking

SLC Park and Stride is recommended for travel to school / nursery by walking, cycling, scooter to promote health and to reduce parking in and around the area of the school.



Christmas is Coming

Christmas 2020 is fast approaching!

School and Nursery Christmas preparations are underway amidst changing local community Covid-19 restriction levels. School and Nursery staff have carefully considered the Health and Safety implications of all Christmas arrangements for this year to ensure we comply with Covid –19 Health and Safety Guidelines for Schools and Early Years establishments.

As a result, we hope to offer the children in both School and Nursery the opportunity to participate in a 'Christmas Ho Ho Ho Themed Day' on Wednesday 16th December 2020 to replace traditional parties. On this day, children can wear 'comfy' Christmassy clothes throughout the day (no midday change). The children will be offered the opportunity to select to eat a Christmas lunch or their own packed lunch on this day. The school children can bring one extra snack/ treat (no fizzy drinks or food with nuts) to be enjoyed during Christmas Festivities. Children will help their class to select some fun Christmas activities. We will do our very best to add some 'Christmas Cheer!'

Traditionally during Advent, our children, families and wider school community are hugely generous in their offerings to staff and the school. The kind Christmas wishes are always greatly appreciated, although never necessary. This year, given the current Pandemic and in order to comply with current National and SLC Health and Safety Covid-19 Safety Guidance, we ask that children, families and the school and nursery community keep the staff in their thoughts and prayers over the Christmas period rather than offering cards or gifts. Gifts/ cards will not be able to be accepted this year but we thank families for their kindness.

On the same note, we would ask that children do not exchange Christmas cards or gifts with their friends on the school premises to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

In order to minimise the transfer of items/ gifts between school and home, each class will be provided with some little surprises for use in their class (which have been quarantined for 72 hours). I'm sure you will agree - hard though it is for all staff- SAFETY first for our children, staff and their families. We also hope to provide the children with a **'Super Fun Day'** at some point in the future when restrictions are lifted and guidelines allow for 'normality' to return.

We wish everyone a safe, healthy and Holy Christmas period.

Kind Regards

Claire-Louise Mullen (Scrooge of Christmas 2020)

Depute Head Teacher

