



Dear Parent/Carers

We welcome all of our new families in Nursery, Reception and throughout the school who joined the family of St Joseph's this term. In addition, we welcome to the staff Mrs Karbovska and Mrs Strachan as Teaching Assistants and Mrs Hookham as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant.

It has been an encouraging start to term so far with lots of very happy children enjoying being back at school. We have all risen to the challenge of increased handwashing, cleaning, keeping to our own bubble inside the school building and on the field and adapting to very different classroom layouts.

We are continually reviewing our new practices to ensure that we keep meeting the changing guidance from the Local Authority and DfE in terms of reducing the risks of COVID-19 in school.

Please help us by remembering:

- Only one parent should enter the school site to pick up your child/ren. This will reduce risks to other adults and children and ensure that pick up is less crowded.
- Keep to a social distance between other families at drop off and pick up. Keep to the distance markers on the paths. You are permitted to wear a facemask on the school site.
- Phone or email the School Admin team (01279652576; admin@stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk) for general enquiries, ordering book bags and PE bags. The Office no longer accepts cash - all payments are made via school gateway.
- Only enter the School Office foyer if you have a pre-arranged appointment. (We are going to have to be stricter on this from Monday 28th September!)

It is September, but not like any other September. Thank you for your patience at this start of term. We are having to adapt to 'new normals' and the guidance for us all is constantly changing.

Seesaw App and Home Learning Yrs 1-6

We will be setting home learning via the Seesaw App in Yrs1-6. During lockdown feedback was very positive and it was a popular way to provide information between pupils and teachers. This academic year we will be using Seesaw for weekly homework and other home learning activities. This will reduce the amount of paper going between school and home.

This year to use Seesaw, we need all parents of pupils in Yrs 1-6 to complete a parental consent form. This online form needs to be completed by Monday 28th September and can be found here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y6z88q8u>

Your previous passwords and classes have now been archived. Your child will be receiving details of their new unique log in details in due course.

Class Curriculum Letters

Please find attached with this newsletter our class curriculum letters for this term. These will also be uploaded onto the school website.

Reading Books

Please find with the curriculum letters information on how we will issue reading books this term and when they have to be returned for quarantine purposes.

Meet Your Teacher Talk

Obviously we can't invite you in to a session to meet your new teacher this year. However we will be uploading the information shared onto the website by the end of the week. In addition we will be trialling a remote meet your teacher session during the week of 5th October. More details to follow.

Communicating with Staff

With the measures we have to put in place this term, staff are not as accessible to speak to as they have been in the past. If you do want to speak with your class teacher or a member of the leadership team, our preference is to email the School Office

admin@stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk

You can also telephone the school and leave a message. Staff will endeavour to get back to you within three working days during School Office hours of 08.30-16.30. (As I am sure you will appreciate, there will times when staff cannot get back to you within that time frame eg if they are part-time or not in school due to sickness or off site training)

Uniform/Lunchboxes/Water Bottles

Thank you to the vast majority of you who have labelled school uniform, lunchboxes and water bottles. Unfortunately we are collecting lots of unnamed uniform and water bottles and we have nowhere to store them!

Outside Playtimes and Lunchtimes

Please be aware that we will be using the field for KS1 and KS2 as much as possible at break times during the school day. Please ensure that your child does have a light coat and suitable footwear on days when it is wet as we will be outside on the grass when it is raining moderately.

Parking

We have had several complaints from residents and other concerned adults about inconsiderate parking around the local streets, including cars being parked over private driveways, on kerbs and other illegal practices. Unfortunately inconsiderate and illegal parking puts people at risk of injury. The local residents do feel outrage over this form of parking and undoubtedly will lead to parents getting parking tickets and fines from the police. We now have staggered times in the mornings and afternoons. If you only have KS2 pupils, then drop them off at the latest times possible rather than the earliest. Do park and stride from slightly further away from the school eg the Sainsbury's car park.

School Building News

Unfortunately there is still a press and photo embargo in place by the DfE regarding school, building projects but you can see the great progress made during the summer holiday period. Staff were very excited to go inside the building for the first time after school- it certainly feels as big as it looks and we will all get very fit going up and down stairs! The building is still on course to be completed for a Christmas holiday handover period. Around the October half term the secure fence line will take up more of the space outside Willow classroom as new paths need to be installed. After we move into the new building in January 2021, work will commence on demolishing the current school building and landscaping begins. We are still scheduled to be builder free from September 2021.

Finally

It was with great sadness that just prior to term starting we heard about the passing of Mrs Tran after a long and courageous battle with ill health. She was such a positive woman who always brought a huge smile to the playground. We continue to pray for all of her family and extended family in these challenging times. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May she rest in peace. Amen.