



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had an enjoyable break over the summer. It was great to see so many happy faces - both pupils and parents - as we opened up the gates on the first day back. On behalf of the staff and myself, thank you so much for the kind words, cards and gifts given at the end of the summer term. It is not expected but really appreciated.

We welcome our new Nursery and Reception children on the start of their school journey with us, as well as all of the new families and the 20 new pupils who have joined the family of St. Joseph's in Years 1-6.

With the change in rules concerning COVID and schools just prior to the end of last term, I am writing to confirm the following:

Entering and Leaving the school site- we are currently suspending the one way system around the school building as the start and end of day times for the majority of pupils are the same. This way you do not have to wait if you have children in different year groups. We ask that all parents need to leave the school site by 09.05 in the mornings and in the afternoons, Reception – Year 6 parents leave by 15.35. Nursery parents with children in all day need to leave by 15.40.

Masks- these now are personal choice if you are outside the school building. If you are invited into the school building, we will encourage you to wear one.

Bubble System- we are no longer following a bubble system for break and lunchtimes. However, we are still staggering break and lunchtimes to ensure pupils have more space to play in and to reduce accidents.

PE Kits- This term we are returning to the pupils changing in school. Children will need to bring in their PE kits from Monday - they will not be wearing them coming into school. Please make sure PE kits are labelled with your child's name. *(We will review this decision again later in the term, as there are pros and cons!)*

COVID and Self Isolation

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

Children will be sent home if they have symptoms of Covid-19, however mild.

Guidance can be found here:

<https://tinyurl.com/25k4dt7u>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If your child does have a positive case of COVID, please let the school know as soon as possible. We now have different procedures to follow once a positive case has been confirmed, including how this information is shared with the school community.

Message from HCC Public Health

Please find attached a message from the Director of Public Health concerning MMR vaccinations.

Finally

As you will have seen over the last two days, I am very pleased to say that we are now part of the St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust. The eight schools in the Trust are now working together, sharing good practice and learning from each other, which will only strengthen Catholic education in our deanery.

Family Prayer

God be with our family,
From the youngest to the oldest,
Lighting up our relationships,
Sowing grace into our troubles.
God be with our family,
Weaving love into our work.
Our rest, and our play.

Amen

I hope you manage to spend some quality time as a family this weekend.

Peter Coldwell

Headteacher