



St Joseph's Catholic Academy

Member of the Newman Catholic Collegiate

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Acting Executive Principal- Mrs D Farmer
Acting Head of School – Mrs R Wilson

14th May 2020

Dear Parents,

I write to give you further clarification on the reopening of St Joseph's Catholic Academy.

By 1st June 2020, we will have been closed to almost all of the children for 10 weeks, with the exception of any key worker children and vulnerable children who have attended the hub at St Joseph's.

The government announced on Sunday night that the Pre-school, Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children will be returning to school. We have been working hard as a Collegiate to formulate plans to enable the schools to reopen to the children in Pre-school, Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 6, key worker children and vulnerable children.

In order to move forward with these plans and the plans set out in Mr Beardmore's letter, you will be receiving a text message later today with a link to a questionnaire. Please complete this as soon as possible to enable our school to finalise plans. We would ideally like this completed by the end of Friday 15th May, to give us time to sort groupings of no more than 15.

The year groups the government has asked to return will remain with their peers, but may be with a teacher or teaching assistant that they may not be their normal teacher or teaching assistant, and they may not be in their normal classroom. The children will remain in the group they are in for the rest of the term, with the same staff and children. Children will NOT be allowed to move groups for any reason.

Any key worker children or vulnerable children who are not in the named year groups may not be with their peers and may not be with their normal teacher. They will be asked to complete the home learning that has been set for them.

Home learning will continue to be set for children in Years 2, 3, 4, and 5, but will not be set for Pre-school, Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 as the teachers will be teaching in school.

There will be staggered start and finish times to reduce the number of parents and children on the playground at the beginning and the end of the day. These will be separated by 10 minutes. If you have siblings to drop off you will have a designated area to wait in until it is your child's group's turn to enter school. Once we know the numbers of children, we will be able to sort out groups and inform you of the drop-off and pick-up times.



When you drop your child off and pick them up, there should only be 1 parent and social distancing should be observed. You should remain 2m away from other parents and children outside of your household. We are encouraging as many parents as possible to walk to school, to reduce the traffic around our school. Parents will not be allowed into the building with the exception of the Reception office area, where you will also be asked to maintain 2m social distancing.

We will do our very best to ensure your child is safe while at school and we will be encouraging regular handwashing, use of antibacterial hand gel, regular wiping of desks, chairs, door handles, hand rails, etc with disinfectant wipes. We are reminding you that should you or your child be experiencing any symptoms of coronavirus, please do not come to school, but please inform us. You will be able to arrange a test for you or your child.

At the end of each day, children will need to have a bath or shower once they return home and their uniform will need to be washed, as the virus can survive on fabric. You may choose to leave your child's jumper/cardigan at home to reduce the amount of washing each day.

As in Mr Beardmore's letter, please do not send your child with a face mask. They will be asked to remove it as they come into school, as if they are not used correctly face masks can cause the virus to spread further.

Staff may be required to wear face masks, gloves, aprons, and face shields if your child becomes unwell at school, or when carrying out first aid when social distancing cannot be maintained.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on the above e mail if you require further assistance or clarification. I will be in touch again with further information

Stay safe.

Mrs D Farmer
Executive Principal