



## 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

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I am sure you are aware by now, the government announced last week that our children in Years 2 to 5 will not be returning to us until September. Although expected, it has come as a blow to us at school, as we miss all of the children in these year groups very much, and we are waiting with great anticipation for the day it is deemed safe to open our doors for all of our children again. For those of you with children still at home, we really do appreciate that it has been a long time for them to be away from the routine of school and the company of their friends. If the children, or yourselves as parents, are struggling at home with home learning, financial difficulties or the emotional toll that this terrible pandemic has taken, please do not hesitate to contact us at school as there will be somebody who may be able to help. School is open as normal and we want to do all that we can to support all of our families at this time.

In order for us to plan for the remainder of the term, our collegiate is requesting that, if you are entitled to send back your child to us this academic year (because they fall into the vulnerable group, you are a critical key worker or they are in Early Years, Year 1 or Year 6), you must let us know of your intentions by tomorrow, **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June**. The collegiate policy states that we will be unable to accept any requests for return after this date. Please contact the school office by tomorrow afternoon at the very latest if you intend for your child to return before September, stating the Monday that you wish for them to return on.

As we begin the third week of re-opening to children in Early Years, Year 1 and Year 6, we have welcomed some new children back to school, and as you can see below, have expanded our Year 1 and Year 6 classes into 2 groups. This is to adhere to social distancing and small class size rules. All of our children are very pleased to be back and are working so hard in school and we are very proud of them all. Our Wow award winners for last week are:

Nursery- **Lucas**, for settling in really well in his first week back

Reception- **Jorgie and Rory**, who are actually in our pre-school but have joined our Reception class for the remainder of this term and have fitted in really well!

Year 1, group 1- **Callan**, for excellent focus and a brilliant attitude to his learning, including an improvement in handwriting and presentation

Year 1, group 1- **Lilly**, who has really impressed her new teachers with her super attitude to learning this week

Year 6, group 1- **Faith**, for excellent work, particularly her art work on influential figures

Year 6, group 2- **Lailie Grace**, whose outstanding efforts throughout her home learning have continued now she is back in school.



Well done to all of our Wow winners this week and to every single child and member of staff. A special thanks must go to teaching staff who are now teaching children in a different year group, whilst continuing to set home learning for their own classes. This is a real testimony to the commitment and dedication of our staff, who have worked continuously throughout the pandemic.

This week, teachers will be making phone calls again to speak to the children who are still at home, so if you have any questions or concerns, please do speak to our staff. Could I ask you to be mindful however, that the vast majority of them are having to make these calls now in addition to teaching in the classroom full time, so I am sure they would appreciate it if you didn't keep them too long! If teachers are unable to get in contact, they will leave a voice message asking you to call the school back to let us know that you and your child are safe and well.

Finally, this coming Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> June, should have been a time of great celebration for our First Holy Communion children and their families, who were preparing to receive Our Lord Jesus in the Holy Eucharist for the first time. Please especially remember these Year 4 children in your prayers this week: Tommy, Anya, Connor, Elsa Rose, William and Julia. We will be in touch with their families when we know that sacramental preparations can resume. Churches are beginning to open around the country from tomorrow for private prayer. St Joseph's will be open for your own private prayer on Wednesday from 5.30pm to 7.30pm, Friday 5.30pm to 7.30pm and Sunday 10.30am to 12.30pm. Please take note of the following:

- \* If you are ill, even with mild symptoms of sore throat, cough, fatigue, lack of senses of taste or smell, or with any other illness, then you must not come to church
- \* You will be greeted by a volunteer at the door who will ask you to put alcohol gel on your hands. This is obligatory
- \* You will also be asked to sit only in designated pews. At all times keep two metres (six feet) from other people who are not from your household
- \* The wearing of face coverings is encouraged
- \* Children under the age of 16 are not allowed to access church without a responsible adult
- \* There will be no toilet facilities available
- \* In church there will be a one-way system. Please enter by the side chapel door and leave by the main doors
- \* There will be Eucharistic Adoration when the church is open, so please remain silent in church
- \* Any items you pick up in church (sheets with prayers or readings) you must take home with you
- \* Please sanitise your hands when leaving.

I know for many, including myself, the reopening of church will be a great source of comfort and strength. Please remember that if you need us for anything at all, do get in touch via phone or email. I will continue to keep you all in my thoughts and prayers. God bless you all.

Mrs R Wilson,  
Acting Head of School.