



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 6th July 2020,

Dear parents, carers and children of St Joseph's,

On Friday, the government finally announced the news that we have been waiting for for many months- school will re-open to all pupils on **Wednesday 2nd September**. We are so very much looking forward to our school community joining together again and seeing the children that we have missed for so long. However, school will not be quite how it was prior to lock-down, and we now have the task of ensuring that re-opening is possible with some of the restrictions that need to remain in place. We will write to you again as soon as we have finalised arrangements. Since mass gatherings are still prohibited and social distancing remains in place for adults, we suspect that there will still be a need for staggered start and finishing times for pupils, extra-curricular activities will need to be restricted to single year groups, there will be no whole-school gatherings for assemblies or Mass and parents will still unfortunately not be allowed face-to-face appointments with teachers. Mr. Beardmore's letter, which you will find on the Coronavirus tab of our school website, explains the government's guidance for the re-opening of schools very clearly, so I would highly recommend you reading his letter if you have not yet done so.

We are into the final two weeks of our school year and finalising plans for end of year arrangements. I will be in touch with Year 6 parents separately this week as I am very mindful that this was not the send-off we had planned for your children and I would like to reassure you that we hoping to plan for a reunion as soon as it is safe to do so. End of year reports and all of your children's belongings have now been sorted and will be available from the main entrance on the day that you have been text to collect them. You will be able to collect your children's younger siblings' items at the same time as your eldest. If anything is missing, please check the lost property in the entrance as there are many unlabeled items of clothing, PE kits, wellingtons, lunchboxes, etc. It is imperative that you collect your child's property next week; firstly because we would really like you to read your child's report as their teachers have put a lot of thought and time into them, and secondly because we will be unable to take any responsibility for personal items in September. I am sure that you can appreciate, much work has to go into preparing for a new academic year, and never more so than this year. We would like our children to return to a well-organised, inviting school and work will be undertaken during the summer holidays to ensure this.

Thank you to those who enabled your children to join the class Teams lessons this week- teachers have reported that these have generally been very successful so far. I apologise that there were a few technical issues at the start of Year 2's lesson on Thursday- it was lovely to see a few of the children myself as we attempted to solve the problem! Attendance at these meetings has been positive but it would be lovely if the whole class could join in. Next week will be the opportunity for children to meet their new teacher/s, and the final week of term will be the chance for them to say thank you and goodbye to their current one. Our teachers have all worked exceptionally hard throughout lockdown on home learning, teaching in school, sorting out the school environment, setting up their new classrooms and continuing their own professional development for the benefit of our children.

The children who are in school are continuing to work incredibly hard and their spirits remain high. Their behaviour has been impeccable and they are making excellent progress as they have full access to the curriculum. In the busyness of last week, I did not include on my letter the Wow winners from last Friday 26th June.



They were:

Nursery bubble: **Anaya**, for a fantastic learning attitude and working really hard

Reception bubble: **Zak**, who is making super progress and accessing lots of activities independently

Year 1, bubble 1: **Ann Lorraine**, who can always be relied upon to work hard in class

Year 1, bubble 2: **Rayan**, for a super attitude to learning and excellent effort with his writing

Year 6, bubble 1: **Winner**, for excellent, empathetic writing

Year 6, bubble 2: **Olivia M**, who showed great resilience and a positive attitude after suffering a Sports Day injury

Our Wow award winners for this week are:

Nursery bubble: **Ethan**, for his enthusiasm, especially when learning how to write letters and his name

Reception bubble: **Tiffany**, for being an exceptionally polite and helpful member of the Reception class, and an excellent listener

Year 1, bubble 1: **Braxton and Sebi**, who both produced some fantastic writing about holidays

Year 1, bubble 2: **Aiden**, for a super effort with his reading and Phonics, and **Zane**, who has produced some brilliant research and writing about Jesus' disciples in RE

Key worker group: **Archie**, who has been in the key workers group every day this week and always with a smile on his face!

Year 6, bubble 1: **Harrison**, for excellent Maths work, particularly converting measures between imperial and metric

Year 6, bubble 2: **George**, for an all-round fantastic attitude and effort, and an exceptional piece of art work on plastic pollution in the world's oceans.

A huge well done to all of our Wow winners and all of our fantastic children who are continuing to work really hard at school and at home.

Please remember that St Joseph's Church is now open for the celebration of Mass on Saturday evenings at 6.30pm and Sunday mornings at 11am. Church is also open for private prayer on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6.00pm to 7.30pm.

Myself or Mrs. Farmer will write to you again once we have finalised arrangements for September. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us at school should you need us.

I will continue to keep you all in my thoughts and prayers. God bless you all.

Mrs. R Wilson,
Acting Head of School.