



# Our Lady & St Joseph Primary School

## Newsletter

March 5th 2021

Newsletter 1188

**Dear parents:** .... I know people are becoming incredibly excited about Monday with less than 65 hours and 30 minutes to go. People can hardly wait until the weekend is over to hear Oprah's interview with ..... oh you mean the really important real world stuff about school reopening on Monday March 8th at 8.45am. I have just come off hosting a virtual Google Meets with over 54 parents present, an incredible turn out. I would like to once again guide you all to FAQs on our website under Parents Info where everything we could think of has been covered. 33 questions because Jesus managed to achieve quite a bit in his 33 years on the planet. Really good turn out and happy to do another when the children have returned and settled down. I cannot see our usual assemblies, class visits etc returning until late June at the earliest or maybe September but who knows.

Asked about lots and one of the things I stressed is ventilation indoors. All top windows will be open all day (see Japanese research). If its cold children can wrap up warm. No PE uniform next week but PE goes ahead outdoors and all classes in addition must exercise outside for an extra 15 minutes. Ask them in the evening about their day. + Lots of handwriting practice and speaking and listening and much less screen time. No talk of Recovery Curriculum or Catch Up but heard this week the expression 'Learning Loss' quite like that. We will try to make up for all children's Learning Loss whether it be academic, emotional or physical. I also said in the meeting please be aware that we have lots of grief and bereavement in our community to try and deal with. We also have domestic violence, unemployment, mental health and more to come to terms with and deal with but rest assured we will and probably quicker than people realise. No 'new normal' I quite liked the old normal. Did I mention the FAQs on our website under Parents Info 33 of them. The infection rate in this area is almost zero last week so very good news. Saw the PHE charts yesterday and they decline is astonishing. Also please encourage people to take the vaccine. So as was said this morning it all kicks off, in the nicest possible way, at 8.45am on Monday. Hopefully as good as the Premier League West Ham still 4th and I will have no VAR to contend with. Roll on Monday and much better days ahead please God. Have a lovely weekend and anticipation can be a great feeling.

### Pics of the week:

33 FAQs illustrated below .... RIP Glenn Roeder ex West Ham manager a true gentleman died this week far too young at 65 with a brain tumour ...KS2 bubble / group showing their art this week .... the view that awaits children and parents on Monday and Teddy Roosevelt showing how I felt when I heard school was reopening as he recited his famous speech 'The Man in the Arena'. (Google it)

#### Frequently asked questions FAQs - school reopening March 8th

1. Will the school be open for all children and all ages on Monday March 8th?  
YES ... the school will be open for all children from Reception to Year 6. Attendance is mandatory for all pupils unless a valid informed reason.
2. Will Breakfast Club and After school club resume?  
YES ... on the same day March 8th. Booking details tomorrow.
3. Do children have to wear school uniform?  
YES ... normal proper school uniform for all pupils.
4. Will hot lunches be provided?  
YES ... same as usual kitchen will be fully open. Packed lunches may be brought in also.
5. Is it fully back to normal or will they still be in 'bubbles' or class settings?  
ALL children will be in their own class groups or bubbles all day including as far as possible in the playgrounds. Social distancing will be maintained as far as is possible with young children.
6. Will my child have to wear a face mask or PPE?  
NO ... but they can if they wish and you must provide and clean these.
7. Will all lessons resume the same as in March 2020?  
NO ... it will be a phased return. We hope to have PE outdoors back and music also starting again in the first week.
8. Will parents be allowed to drop their children off at the classroom door and collect same as before?  
NO ... parents can only enter the school grounds by appointment only.
9. Will my child have to be tested before returning to school or when school resumes?  
NO ... lateral flow tests are for secondary pupils only. Teachers and staff now have these tests and have been asked to conduct them twice a week. 1 do every week ...
10. Start and finish times will they be staggered and can they bring bikes and scooters?  
YES ... Start times are the same between 8.45am and 9.00am. Collection Reception - 3.15pm Year 1 3.20pm Year 2 3.25pm. From Cullford Road Gate. Children responsible for parking and collecting bikes etc and may not be ridden in school grounds.  
Years 3 and 4 @ 3.20pm Years 5 and 6 3.30pm from Buckingham Road Gate.



**and finally** .... remember when the Brexit vote came in saying to a friend 'that's us and the Eurovision song contest out of the window for the next few years', not that I ever watched it anyway .... was reminded of this when Pascal the French referee gave two of the worst decisions I have ever seen last Saturday in the first half of England's game against Wales ... at least he now admits he got them both wrong but worst I have seen in over 50 years of watching and playing rugby ... astonishing story this week about Pontins for 6 years banning guests with Irish surnames. Reminded me of my London childhood and racist rental signs everywhere you looked .... anyway my mother was an O'Reilly so we stood no chance as her name was one of 30 other names listed. Looks ghastly Pontins so won't be booking any time soon ... anyway my highlight of the week was Dolly Parton and her new song "Vaccine Vaccine Vaccine vaccine I'm begging of you please just take the jab". Love Dolly someone else suggested Return of the Vac and We're Jabbing Jabbing I want to ..... some great ideas but Dolly's is the best on YouTube. Thanks to how almost all of you have supported our school during this last truly awful lockdown ... I never give false praise and mean what I write so thank you .. see you Monday .. what channel is Oprah on?