ST JOHN THE BAPTIST RCP SCHOOL

Headteacher's Note

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 4th September 2020



Dear Parents,



We made it! We have finally been in a position to welcome the children back and I can't tell you how lovely this has been, we have missed the children so very much! The paperwork, risk assessments and mountain of DFE Guidance has been a challenge to us all and we are still having to refer to these throughout the day to make sure we are working with the most current advice. Please bear with us if you have a query and we have to double check before replying. However the simplest of tasks now has new restrictions and guidelines and we are all on a learning curve and getting used to the new routines. The guidance from the government was changed as late as last Friday evening which then meant that we had to alter and update all our plans once again.



However, all the planning and preparation has stood us in good stead for what has been a very successful and smooth reopening of school. Taking all of this into account yesterday and today has been wonderful and the children, as always have taken in their stride and embraced the changes. The school is once again complete with lots of happy smiling faces filling the building.

MORNING ENTRY TO SCHOOL

The principle behind not introducing a staggered start to the day has been purely to keep to routines and not cause disruption to parents, particularly those with more than one child to drop off and parents dashing off to work. This morning was much smother than Thursday morning and I am sure that we will continue to improve on the fluency of the new drop off routine.

Yesterday a queue formed down St John's Road as people arrived on the premises too early and this caused problems with the pedestrian crossing. If you arrive early, please can you remain in your cars until 8.45am when the gates will open. We are not able to open the gates any earlier as a high percentage of our support staff have staggered start times in the mornings. Please be assured that once you leave your child at the gates they are completely secure and are supervised to their rooms. Once you have dropped your child off please vacate the premises as soon as possible to keep the grounds clear.

HOMETIME ROUTINES

The gates will not open until 3.10pm as we need to safeguard the building as many of the external doors are being kept open at the moment to increase air flow to rooms. If the Blue gates are open then we need to have staff supervising these external doors

If you are picking up more than one child **please start with the eldest first.**

The side passageway in-between Church and the school Hall has three classes sharing this exit. Please can I ask that year 3 parents stand well back so as not the block this passageway. May I also remind you that adults also still need to socially distance yourself from other adults and families on the yard.

School Uniform

I just wanted to personally thank you all for returning the children to school in full uniform and the children look incredibly smart.

At the moment we are not using school bags and book bags but this will not be forever as the situation regarding the pandemic is improving all the time. This is due to DFE Guidance asking us to limit items coming in and out of school.

Please do not expect any reading books to be sent home until next week. If you have any books at home from before the holidays please can you return these to school as soon as possible. All returned books are being quarantined before being passed to another family.

Reception and Nursery
EYFS

We are looking forward to welcoming the new Reception and Nursery children back to school over the next few weeks and it has been lovely to see some of the children beginning their induction over the past two days.

Any medication being brought into school should be done via the school office and the correct forms be completed in full.



Changes to the ordering of school meals

In order to support our aim to make the office cashless and to reduce time spent in class organising meals each day we have modernised our systems. Please note the important changes below.

- It is ESSENTIAL that **all school meal choices are booked via the parent pay system,** even if there is no fee to pay as your child is entitled to free school meals or a universal free school meals (Pupils from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2).
- All meals must be booked one day in advance.
- Unfortunately you care not able to book a meal if the account is in arrears and in this case you would need to provide a packed lunch until the arrears are cleared.
- Full guidance notes on Parent Pay are available on the school website under the Parents category.
- If you have not activated your Parent pay account you will receive a letter via email today.

If you have never actually enrolled for Pupil Premium funding before as your child was already receiving a free universal school meal each day it would be worth checking to see if you are eligible. Simply call 01254 220710 to check. All you need is your national insurance number. Please refer to our school website for further information. You will find Pupil Premium in the key information section on our school website.

Mass Times

Sunday Masses are still suspended at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Fr Allen is now doing some week day masses for Parishioners



St John the Baptist RC Church

Tuesday 8th September 6pm

Friday 11th September 10am

St Augustine's RC Church

Wednesday 9th September 6pm

St Mary Magdalene's RC Church

Thursday 10th September 7pm

