



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Holloway, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 9BB

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Thursday 21st May 2020

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you for all the supportive messages and conversations I have received over the past few weeks...It goes without saying it has been a difficult few weeks. However, the St Joseph's community spirit has kept the staff and me going.

Following the guidance that has been set out by the Government, I have been working on the best possible plan which ensures the safety of pupils and staff alike. We are preparing to implement the guidelines as set out by the Government in order to reopen St Joseph's in June 2020.

As with all smaller schools, the logistics of offering a 5 day week in school has proved to be impossible. We are significantly limited due to our classroom sizes, while ensuring 2m social distancing rules, and the number of staff that we employ. With that in mind we welcome children back on the following dates:

Monday 1st June – continued Keyworker group

Thursday 4th June – new Year 6 bubble (see below)

Monday 8th June – new Reception and Year 1 bubbles (see below)

Please be assured that we are following all Government guidelines.

The latest information for parents can be found online:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

From the week beginning the 1st June, we would like to continue to support the children of key workers and open up the school for Year 6, starting on Thursday 4th June. This is to ensure that all the procedures and rules are set out clearly and running smoothly before introducing our youngest members of the school the following week, from the 8th June.

We will be operating in groups or 'bubbles' in which the children will remain for the rest of this academic year. These bubbles will ensure that the same children and adults continue to operate in their groups and they will not be allowed to mix with other 'bubbles' around the school.

The measures that we will be implementing from the 4th June are:

- In order to operate the socially distancing measures and based on the number of children wishing to attend school, we will need to operate in small bubbles.
 - Parents will be informed which days their children will attend by Friday 22nd May.
 - Each bubble will be set up in a different classroom.
 - Staggered start times to the day for each year group bubble.
 - Entrance to the school for pupil drop off and pick up will no longer be at the wooden gate. We will be opening up the black garage doors, on Holloway Hill, with a welcome station complete with a hand washing facility for the children and a temperature check on entry. Please be advised that if your child has a high temperature they will not be allowed to enter the school site.
 - We should remind you whilst waiting to enter please adhere to the 2 metre social distancing rule and for the younger children please hold their hands ensuring that they do not walk or run off towards another child/family.
 - To reduce numbers please can one adult drop off and pick up each child.
 - The class teacher will lead their group onto the school playground.
 - Reception children will be in 2 bubbles. Bubble one will attend Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday is a deep clean day and Bubble 2 will be Thursday and Friday.
 - At the moment Year 6 and Year 1 children will be able to attend St Joseph's 4 days per week – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. This may change, however, if additional children wish to recommence their in-school education and additional bubbles are required to be formed. In this event parents will receive at least one week's notice.
 - **No** child will be admitted access to the school without their parents contacting the Headteacher at least one week in advance so that the necessary measures can be put in place in order to ensure the safety of pupils and staff.
 - Year 6 will be accommodated in the hall and Miss Soper's classroom, with the sliding doors retracted.
 - Year 6 will use the toilets at the end of the corridor in a one way system. Children will leave the classroom through the playground external door and return through the corridor.
 - Staggered playtimes in bubbles.
 - Staggered lunchtimes.
 - Staggered end of the day pick up at the black garage gates.
 - Lunch should be brought in an easy to clean container for returning home or disposable bag, that will be placed in a bin straight after eating.
 - Reception children will be placed into 2 bubbles and attend school on Monday and Tuesday OR Thursday and Friday.
 - On Wednesdays the school will be deep cleaned and all staff, apart from those attached to the Key Worker Bubble, will have preparation and home-schooling support time.
 - Children will clean their hands before eating snacks or lunch.
 - There will be no afterschool clubs or larger group gatherings due to the risk of cross contamination of groups and 'bubbles'.
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- No contact games in the playground.
- Try to minimize the amount of additional bags and equipment the children bring into school, please do not bring in school bags/back packs or PE bags.
- Pencil and pens per child provided by school.
- Sun cream should be put on before coming to school.

Start Date	Key Workers 1 st June	Year 6 4 th June	Reception 8 th June	Year 1 8 th June
Start time	8.50-9.00	8.40 – 8.50	9.00-9.10	8.30-8.40
Pick up times	3.10-3.20	3.00-3.10	2.50-3.00	2.40-2.50

Following the survey we sent out last week we now have the numbers of children who have told us that they will be returning to school in these year groups. **We will place them in a bubble and let you know which days they will be in school by tomorrow. Once these ‘bubbles’ have been created, children cannot move between groups. If you would like to join school at a later stage you need to contact the school admin@st-josephs-malmsbury.wilts.sch.uk and we will need to look at the bubbles. We will need at least one week’s notice.**

Clearly, we are very keen to see the children back in school, however, as a school, we absolutely understand that this is a decision that as a parent you will be considering carefully.

Teachers will be in school from the 1st June and they will continue to set home learning tasks, however, they will be unable to respond in the same way they have done whilst they were working from home. These continue to be difficult times and as well as thanking parents for your continued support, I would like to also say a huge “Thank you!” to all the staff, teaching and non-teaching, for all their work since the 20th March. All staff responded at pace, to deliver online teaching and have worked tirelessly since then...well done team!

Whatever your decision has been, I would like to assure you that the safety of children, staff and parents is always paramount.

Warm regards and God bless
Mrs Sue Woods
Head Teacher