



# NEWSLETTER

*We are growing together on our journey of achievement with Jesus in our hearts, heads and hands.*

[www.stjosephs.bracknell-forest.sch.uk](http://www.stjosephs.bracknell-forest.sch.uk)

Monday 26th October 2020

Dear Parents

**Reminder:** Don't forget Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 is an INSET day for school staff. Children will not return to school until Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov.

I am delighted to say that we have reached the half term safely and without having to close down any part of the school.

I am so very proud and inspired by the resilience and resourcefulness of all our school staff in their determination to create a safe and stable learning environment for all our pupils.

We would like to thank all the parents who have been very vigilant in ensuring that no pupils are sent to school ill. We appreciate all the parents who have dropped everything to come quickly and pick up their child when asked to by the school. We acknowledge that it is difficult to organise a test and thankfully great improvements have been made in this area. Everyone's efforts are appreciated by all staff. Thank you!

Whilst the virus is low overall in Bracknell - it is rising. There is talk that within weeks Bracknell may enter 'Tier 2' the 'high' banding. It is the governments' intention that schools will remain open in all tiers (even the highest). It is possible that we may have to close down a bubble within the school. If a bubble is closed, then no children from this bubble will attend school for at least 14 days and this will include keyworker children. We recognise the disruption this may cause but we all must follow the Governments guidelines.

In light of the advised rising 'R' number, we will be reviewing our Risk Assessment during half term to ensure that our school environment is as safe as we can make it.

**Half Term Continued Notification for Covid 19:** Despite the school being closed at half term, we ask that parents continue to notify the school if

there are any positive case results for any pupil at St. Joseph's over the holiday. Please use the following email:

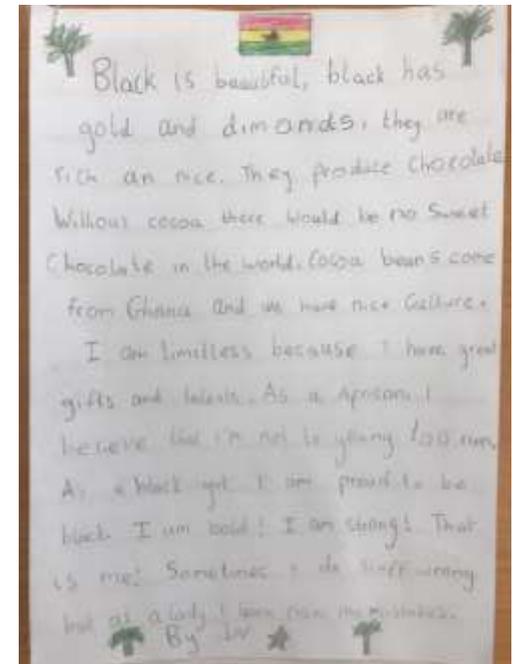
[j.dunlop@stjosephsbracknell.co.uk](mailto:j.dunlop@stjosephsbracknell.co.uk)

We need this information to ensure the safety of staff and pupils and if required to implement school-based contact tracing. We appreciate your continued assistance and wish you a safe and restful half term.

What to do if...	Action needed	Return to school when...
... my child has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not come to school</li> <li>Contact school</li> <li>Self-isolate</li> <li>Get a test</li> <li>Inform school immediately about test results</li> </ul>	... the test comes back negative
... my child tests positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not come to school</li> <li>Self-isolate for at least 10 days</li> <li>Inform school immediately about test results</li> </ul>	... they feel better, but after 10 days. They can then return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone.
... somebody in my household has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not come to school</li> <li>Contact school</li> <li>Self-isolate</li> <li>Symptomatic household member to get a test</li> <li>Inform school immediately about test results</li> </ul>	... the household member test is negative
... somebody in my household has tested positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not come to school</li> <li>Contact school</li> <li>Self-isolate for 14 days</li> </ul>	... the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
... NHS test and trace have identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with symptoms or confirmed coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not come to school</li> <li>Contact school</li> <li>Self-isolate for 14 days</li> <li>Seek a test if symptoms develop</li> </ul>	... the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
... we/my child travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine	<p>Term time holidays, including quarantine time, are unauthorised. Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not come to school</li> <li>Contact school</li> <li>Self-isolate for 14 days - even if a test is negative</li> <li>Seek a test if symptoms develop</li> </ul>	... the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed
... we have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not come to school</li> <li>Contact school</li> </ul> <p>Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is passed again</p>	... school inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again
... I am not sure who should get a test for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<p>Only people with symptoms* need to get a test</p> <p>People without symptoms are not advised to get a test, even if they are a 'close contact' of someone who tests positive</p>	... when conditions above, or matching your situation, are met

**Remote Learning:** Many thanks to all the parents who responded to the remote learning questionnaire. We have taken on board many of your comments are presently amending our remote learning plan. More information to follow.

**Black History Month:** During October, St Joseph's has been celebrating Black History Month. This is an annual event honouring the contributions and accomplishments of the Black British community, as well as communities around the World. It celebrates both current and historical individuals and the positive impact they have had on society. We believe it is important to celebrate the contributions of everyone in the World and honour the multi-culturalism and diversity that helps shape communities. As a school community, we have enjoyed learning about inspirational individuals and some of the work completed in each class is displayed in the school hall:



If you want to find out more, CBBC have put together a playlist of fantastic videos to support children's understanding of Black History Month. Check them out here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/rou/p08svzrd>



Thank you, Liv in Y4, for sharing your lovely poem!

**Art Work:** Since the start of this academic year, the school has continued to offer its full curriculum – PE, Computing, Art, Music, humanities. The school has started to implement its new art scheme and we would like to share some of the children’s wonderful work completed this half term.



**Morning Club:** The Morning Club at St Joseph's is open daily from 7.45am (8am for Footsteps Children) until school starts and offer quiet activities based at their 'class bubble' table mixed in with some more active games, again in their 'class bubble' groups either in the school hall or, when weather permits, in the outside area. Our Morning Club team are also staff in the school so are already known to the children. Places should be booked in advance in order to attend the Club.

**How to Book** - Places need to be pre-booked and paid for in advance via Parentmail.

Places must be booked by noon two days prior to the day the place is required, e.g. for a place on Wednesday, booking needs to be made by noon on Monday. Booking windows are up to two weeks. Parents are notified every time a new booking window opens. Payment is made online at the time of booking. Cash and cheque payments are no longer acceptable

*Log on to your Parentmail account - click the main menu - select accounts- select morning club for selected child - click on required dates you wish - click on pay now - review your options - click confirm - pay your total amount*

If booking is required for more than one child, it is important to ensure a booking is made for each child. Before booking, please ensure these are **the correct dates you wish for your child(ren) to attend morning club as refunds will not be given.**

Pre-booked places remain at £2 per day per child.

**Ad hoc places** - In the event where a place is required at short notice i.e. within 48 hours of date – children will be accepted on an ad-hoc basis. For each ad-hoc session the charge is £3. An Invoice will be sent at the end of each week via Parentmail for online payment. When payment is not received promptly, the child may be unable to continue to attend Morning Club.

**ASC Collection Times:** Due to logistics, there are three collection times: 4.30, 5.30 or 6pm. In

extenuating circumstances, please prearranged 24 hours beforehand with the school office. In the case of an emergency change of time, please phone the school office. The school phone will be passed to the ASC Managers (Mrs. Mondrendo/ Mrs. Brand) from 5pm.

**Pupil Safety and Dark Nights:** Last Saturday night the clocks went back an hour and summertime ended. Road traffic collisions increase by 20% in the fortnight after the time change. Sadly, some of those collisions will involve child pedestrians and cyclists. Children under-16 are one of the most vulnerable groups of road users. Whilst younger children are at risk, the data shows that 11 - 15 year olds are actually at more at risk from accidents that kill or result in serious injury.

The resources below will help remind children, especially teenagers, about road safety and safe cycling:

Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents

<https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Safety First – Cycling at Night

<https://www.cycletraining.co.uk/cycle-training-and-cycle-safety/safety-first-cycling-at-night/>

Road safety teaching resources for children

<https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/>

Keeping children safe during lockdown and beyond - Parents' pack

<https://www.capt.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=44e36e43-bd5e-4dd0-acae-e040f37fe2ef>

**Secondary School Admissions:** Online applications for secondary schools are now open and close on October 31st . Please ensure you apply on time: <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/starting-secondary-school/when-apply>

**Starting School in September 2021?** Was your child born between 1 Sept 2016 and 31 August 2017? If so, it is important that you apply to Bracknell Forest Admissions for a school place by midnight on 15th January 2021 - <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/starting-secondary-school/when-apply>.

To apply to St. Joseph's School, we advise you to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) as this will enable the Governors to categorise your application in line with our admissions policy. The SIF is available on the school website (<http://www.stjosephsbracknell.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/SJS-SIF-Admissions-SIF-2020-21-002-1.pdf>) as well as a paper copies in school reception.

Currently we are unable to welcome you to a tour of the school, but we will have a virtual tour available on our school website after half term.

**Pupil Premium:** Does your child qualify for free school meals?

If you are in receipt of:

- Income Support
- Jobseekers Allowance
- State pension credit
- Child tax credit (as long as you are not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190 working tax credit run on or universal credit) you may be eligible for a free school meal.

Even if your child has the universal free school meal (Year R, 1 and 2) please apply for this benefit. The school receives money from central Government to support a variety of school initiatives that would be of benefit to your child. If you have any questions please speak to Mrs Baumgart in the school office and you can apply through <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-meals/how-do-i-apply-free-school-meals>

**Safeguarding Quote of the Week:** *'Behind every young person who believes in himself is a parent who believed first.'* Matthew Jacobson

If you have a concern about the long term safety of a child or young person and you want someone to find out what is going on, contact the Bracknell

Forest Children's Services Department – where your name will be kept confidential (if you wish):

- email: [mash@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:mash@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)
- phone: 01344 352005

At St Joseph's Mrs Dunlop is our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), while Mrs Philpott and Mrs. Smith are the Deputy DSLs. Please remember anyone can make a referral and safeguarding is everyone's concern!

**Final Thank You:** We would like to take a moment to thank you all for your continued support this term. We are sure it has been difficult for you to get used to the new rules and routines and I'm sure it has sometimes been difficult for you to understand some of the decisions we are making here behind the gates! It has been a really difficult term for us all as we have had to adjust to yet another new normal and your support and understanding have been greatly appreciated. The main thing is that the children seem to be very happy and settled and are a real credit to you all. Hopefully, the next half term will be slightly more straight forward.

As always, please do contact us if you have any worries or concerns that you think we might be able to help you with but, in the meantime, I wish you all the very best for the half term holiday.

I would like to finish the month of October with a prayer to Mary written by one of our pupils, Gabriel in Y5.



Best Wishes,

Juanita Dunlop  
Headteacher