



NEWSLETTER

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

www.stjosephs.bracknell-forest.sch.uk

10th November 2020

Dear Parents

As we returned to school last Monday, after the half term break, we had to remain positive in light of the increase of Covid 19 nationally and the news that a second national lockdown was imminent. The Government's decision to keep the schools open is warmly welcomed by us all here at St Joseph's.

Since the start of term, all staff and children have been working hard to catch up the missing time from the summer term. The continuing rise in Covid cases across the country has meant, however, that we have all had to make adjustments, some uncomfortable, to our usual routines. Here at St. Joseph's we have implemented further safety measures. For example, our very small number of visitors now have to have their temperature taken, wear masks and scan the school QR code.

From talking to other schools and the Local Authority, it is human behaviour that is the hardest obstacle to overcome in trying to keep the integrity of the class bubbles. With this in mind we now require all staff to wear face coverings when they are out of their bubble. The latest [Risk Assessment](#) is on the school website on the POLICIES tab.

The school has made tremendous efforts in changing the physical environment, systems, policies and procedures as well as our own behaviour in an attempt to keep the school and class bubbles open.

We would also like to remind parents to wear a mask and this includes when dropping you child off at the Morning Club/After School Club. We have some staff who are vulnerable to Covid 19, and we would appreciate your support.

We do need your help - as all our efforts can quickly be undone if you do not continue our strict measures when you meet families outside the class bubble. Please be mindful of who your child mixes with out of school and following government guidelines!

Virtual Tours: Due to Covid 19, St. Joseph's are unable to host any open day or tours of the school. We appreciate that at this time of year, parents are

looking at which primary they will select for their child first year at school. The school has therefore created a selection of short videos which reflect a school day.

Please refer to our school web page:

<http://www.stjosephsbracknell.co.uk/>

Remote Learning: Now that the government have shared their intentions for schools it is unlikely that we will have a government directive that the whole school will close. It is possible that a class bubble/s may need to close due to a positive Covid 19 case. However, due to these uncertain times and we have to be prepared for every eventuality.

We appreciate that it is very difficult to work from home and still be expected to home school your child/ren. Unfortunately, there is a high likelihood that class bubble/s may have to isolate for up to two weeks. If this happens then the school will not be open to any child in this bubble, regardless if their parents are keyworkers. If you have two children in different bubbles, then only the child in the isolating bubble will have to stay at home and the other child can still come to school. Only if your own child has covid symptoms or has tested positive would the whole family have to self-isolate for 14 days.

Our teachers are prepared to move onto online teaching and we will offer an even more comprehensive online experience than the previous lockdown. This is mainly due to the school's adoption of MS TEAMS.

Every child from Reception to year 6 has their own log in for MS TEAMS and through this platform each child will be able to access live teaching as well as a host of other curriculum resources. Please make sure that your child can log onto MS Teams at home as this will be the medium that will be used to stream live lessons.

Many thanks to all the parents who replied to the questionnaire about how we can further improve remote home learning.

From the responses given we find that the majority of parents (especially in KS1) found Padlet very useful – its layout and activities. There were also many other suggestions for improvement:

- Structured daily work – weekly timetable
- Interactive sessions/lessons
- Feedback & monitoring of work completed
- Individual feedback on phone or MS TEAMS
- Adequate reading books supplied as ORT Reading Buddies is dependent on internet.
- Ensuring that the work provides challenge for all abilities
- Home Learning exercises to be set.
 - Less screen time
 - Printed sheets sent home

Following these suggestions, we have included the following in our Remote Education Plan

- The vast majority of activities will be in one place. Reception Year and Year 1 will continue to use Padlet. However, the only online streaming that we can guarantee pupils online safety is MS TEAMS. Pupils all have a username and password to access this site.
- Daily online interactive sessions with the whole class will part of the remote education plan. MS TEAMS will be used and this will provide a safe platform for lessons, reviewing learning , giving feedback as well as outlining the days expectations. This medium may also be used to give individual feedback.
- A weekly timetable will be set and teachers will explain to the children their expectations.

For further information please refer to our school’s [‘Remote Education Plan’](#).



Whole School Celebration Assembly on MSTEAMS:

Last Friday, we managed to hold our first whole school assembly on MSTEAMS. This meeting was a great success and the children all enjoyed seeing each other on screen and celebrating each other’s achievements. The school are going to hold this assembly weekly. One pupil from each class receives

a ‘Kind’ and an ‘Outstanding Learning’ award. On the 5th November the following children received awards:

Year	Kindness	Outstanding Learning
R	Samuel	George
1	Carys	summer
2	Oliwer	Stella
3	Ciara	Akhil
4	Diego	Hanna
5	Xavier	Devine
6	Oliver	Annie

Prayers, Saints and Feasts The children have started their RE unit, ‘Prayers, Saints and Feasts’. Within this unit, our youngest children will be learning about different times that we pray and why it is important. They will also be thinking about what a saint is as well as finding out about different saints. Our older children will be learning about why Jesus prayed and what we can learn from him. As well as this, they will be learning how different saints help them today. Meanwhile, Years 5 and 6 will be thinking about why people choose to go on pilgrimages, how influential the different saints are on us today and how the Church honours Mary.

Christmas: We have a very busy half term ahead of us. As I am sure you will understand, we regret that we are unable to offer the ‘St Joseph’s’ Christmas experience but this does not mean Christmas is cancelled. We are busy trying to devise Covid friendly ways of creating the excitement for this special time of year. More to follow!

PE Kit: We aim that every child will have at least two hours timetabled PE as exercise is a very important part of the curriculum – especially at this time. As the days are becoming colder, we strongly encourage your child to bring a **plain** dark navy/black track suit to school as well as their PE kit. Please note: Girls should not be wearing their tights for PE – they should have a pair of socks in their PE bag.

Data Sheets: Data collection sheets will be being sent home via pupil book bags shortly. To reduce traffic to the front office and to ensure delivery, please return via the black mailbox outside on the school fencing beside the notice board.

Parent Governor: Following the recent Parent Governor election, we would like to announce that Mr Jerome Grelin and Mrs Hannah Rosa have been appointed to the posts.

Any future vacancies will be posted in the school newsletter and further information on the important role of governors can be found on the school website.

School Photos: We decided to go ahead with school photos after the photographer demonstrated that the procedure adopted was Covid safe. It was lovely observing the children reactions to their own image... the good and the bad! All orders are placed through the company online.

Flu Vaccines: The nursing team are due to come in and administer to the children the nasal flu vaccines on 18th November. We feel that it is important to continue with this date if possible as the health experts are stressing the importance of this vaccination due to the possible complications of battling the flu and Covid 19 at the same time.

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals: With the introduction of a second lockdown, there is possibility that some parents may experience financial difficulties over the next few months. If you are eligible for Free School Meals, please apply. Your child and the school will benefit from the extra funding -especially during these uncertain times: <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-meals/forms/apply-free-school-meals>

A prayer as I put on my mask:

*Creator, as I prepare to go into the world,
help me to see the sacrament in the wearing of this cloth*

*let it be "an outward sign of an inward grace"
a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbours, as I love myself.*

*Christ, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart,
that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes.*

*Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly,
not only with my words, but with my actions.*

*Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully
and full of care, to all those I meet.
May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner,
and each breath that it holds, be filled with your love.*

Warmest Regards

Mrs. J. Dunlop

Headteacher

Bracknell Forest Wellbeing Week: Bracknell Forest Libraries will be working in partnership with the Open Learning Centre and the National Careers Service to bring you the first Bracknell Forest Well-being Week, 16-20 November 2020. They will be raising awareness of well-being issues and empowering you to look after your own mental health. You will also find out where you can get more advice and support. All Well-being Week events are free.

Open Learning Centre

The Open Learning Centre will be offering five workshops throughout Well-being Week. Please book your place via Eventbrite.

All sessions will take place between 1.30 to 2.30pm and will be free of charge.

Mon, 16 Nov – Improving your self-confidence.

Tues, 17 Nov – Dealing with change.

Wed, 18 Nov – Getting motivated.

Thurs, 19 Nov – Making a plan- helpful steps to move forward with a purpose.

Fri 20th Nov – Who can help me? Signposting to organisations, training providers and courses to help you find the support you need to move forward.

We suggest to take part to all five sessions to get the maximum benefit. But you can join us for one only, as well.

The workshops are open to anyone, no matter their employment status. They will be happening on Zoom and last one hour.

The number of places is limited to grant the maximum involvement and interaction.

Book your place via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/libraries-bracknell-forest-council-26376617855>

Wellbeing Story time

Reading Well supports you to understand and manage your health and well-being using helpful reading.

Join us for an interactive story time followed by a craft activity on this topic.

When: Saturday, 14 November, 10.30-11am. Free session for all families.

Book your place via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/libraries-bracknell-forest-council-26376617855>

National Careers Service

Do you need any help job searching?

The National Careers Service is offering an interactive webinar to support people looking for a job, facing redundancy or unemployment. Find out how to write a winning CV and search for jobs effectively.

Join the interactive webinar on Wednesday, 18 November, from 10.30 to 12 noon. Free session.

Please book your space via the National Careers Service
0800 100 900

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Wellbeing Storytime

Join us for a cheerful story time for preschool children. Spending time sharing books and stories can help parents and carers manage and support their children's wellbeing. This session is part of Bracknell Forest Wellbeing Week.

Sat 14th Nov, 10.30am

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wellbeing-story-time-tickets-126962469163>



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