



HALF TERM UPDATE

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

www.stjosephsbracknell.co.uk

23rd October 2021

Dear Parents,

Half term has started and I know that you are all looking forward to spending time together with your families and enjoying social activities. As our children take a break from their classrooms, we encourage you to please pause for a moment and consider how you can all stay safe and healthy together. The case rate in Bracknell is currently higher than everyone would like it to be. The cases are particularly high amongst school aged children and consequently also rising in the adults who live with them.

Thank you for all your help in continuing to keep St. Joseph's as safe as possible. St. Joseph's have been working hard to keep everyone as safe as possible in the run up to half term, and you can continue to help and make the return to school safe after the break by planning your half term activities carefully.

This half term we need all families to remain vigilant to keep everyone safe. The chance of catching and spreading the virus remains high, especially when crowded together indoors. Please remain cautious when mixing with friends and family this half term. Remember to:

- ✓ Choose to wear a face covering when socialising in indoor venues
- ✓ Try to meet outside where Covid-19 particles can blow away
- ✓ If you are meeting inside, let fresh air in by opening windows and doors
- ✓ If you have no symptoms, check you aren't infected by taking regular lateral flow tests
- ✓ Book a PCR test if you're feeling unwell and have symptoms
- ✓ Stay home if you are feeling unwell to help protect others
- ✓ Self-isolate if you test positive for Covid-19, or if you're a close contact and aren't double jabbed

Please read the attached letter from the Local Authority who are expecting a further surge in COVID cases in the coming months. In response to the advice from the LA to reduce contact, we are implementing the following further measures after half term:

1. Parents and staff should wear masks when on school grounds/ communal areas. Please note that staff will not wear masks in their classroom.
2. The playground will be divided into year group playing areas so that the children from different classes do not mix. This measure will allow the children to continue to use our outside facilities at the same time.
3. When the children return on the morning of Wednesday 4th, they will go directly to their **classroom**. During the day the children will be shown their designated playground area and the expected morning routine. On future arrivals in the morning, the children will go directly to their designated playground area/ classroom (if raining).

4. No whole school /team or key stage assemblies will be held. We will revert to online assemblies where the children remain in their classroom.

We will continue to use the school hall for lunch, as the children from the same class sit together and the classes are segregated. When the tables are reused, both tables and chairs are wiped with cleaning fluid.

We will also continue with our handwashing routine and our enhanced cleaning in the classrooms.

If we have an outbreak in any class (i.e. 3 or more pupils/staff testing positive with COVID 19), we will implement the extra distancing measures employed in previous outbreaks e.g. children eat lunch in own classroom, staff have own separate area and facilities, distancing in ASC and morning club.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support. I hope that you all have a restful and safe half term.

Mrs. J. Dunlop

Headteacher