



St Joseph's R.C. Primary School
Coast Road, Blackhall, Hartlepool, TS27 4HE
Tel/Fax: 0191 586 4308
Head Teacher: Mrs L Ashton
Chair of Governors: Mrs L Tulett



3rd March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have really missed having all of the children in school over the last few weeks and we look forward to welcoming them all back on Monday March 8th.

Class 3

Mrs Hanley is absent from work at the moment and will not be back to school on Monday 8th March. **Miss Howson will be covering as teacher in Class 3.** Miss Howson is in school this week, working with the children who are in Class 3 at the moment, also with staff, to familiarise herself with the school and routines.

Safety in School

Throughout the pandemic, we have conducted rigorous risk assessments to ensure we mitigate the risks of transmission as far as possible to keep everyone in our school community safe. We continue to review and update our risk assessments regularly and, in light of the upcoming whole school return, have done this once again to ensure we have rigorous plans in place.

When we welcome all children back on Monday 8th March, we will largely return to how we operated before Christmas. Attached to this letter is an updated 'Information for Parents' document, which we would ask parents to take some time to read. However, we would like to remind you of some of the key organisational procedures that will once again be in place.

School Day

From the 8th March, we will be **operating a flexible drop off between 8.40am and 9am and a flexible pick-up between 3pm and 3.20pm.** Children will enter and exit from their class door. I would ask that adults wear a mask whilst on site and everyone maintains social distancing at all times.

Breakfast and Tea Club

We understand the importance of wraparound care for parents and we will continue to offer this provision but on a reduced basis. Children must be booked into breakfast club and can arrive in school between 7.45am up until 8.20am at a charge of £2.50. Tea time club can be split into 2 sessions, you can book for just the earlier sessions between 3.15pm-4.15pm at a cost of £1.50, or you can extend this session and book an extra session from 4.15-5.15pm at an additional charge of £3.50.

Breakfast Club and Tea Time Club places **must** be booked in advance. Mrs Johnston will send out a weekly message with booking arrangements for these clubs and we would really appreciate it if anyone requiring a place for their child, books and returns the information in the timescale

Respect, friendship, excellence, care

requested.

After School Clubs

We plan to resume some of our after school clubs after the Easter holidays.

Uniform

Children will be required to wear full school uniform again from Monday 8th March. As before Christmas, we would ask that children come to school dressed in their outdoor PE kit on a Monday and a Friday.

Staff and Parent Testing

You may have seen recently in the press that the government has introduced rapid lateral flow testing for households and support bubbles of primary (and secondary) aged pupils. We have now received further information on this and, although primary school children will not be asked to test, parents and any adults in their household, support or childcare bubble will be able to access testing twice a week, should they wish to do so. Lateral flow tests are easy to self-administer and provide a result after 30 minutes- these are the tests staff have been doing for a number of weeks.

You can access the twice-weekly testing:

- Through your employer, if they offer testing to employees.
- At a local test site- you may need to book an appointment to do this. To find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site please visit <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>
- By collecting a home test kit from a test site. You can collect up to 4 home test kits at a local collection point. Each kit contains 7 tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect. The online service to find your nearest home test kit collection point will be available through the link below.
- By ordering a home test kit online using the link below.

[Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Staff in school will continue to test twice per week.

Once again, we are delighted to be welcoming everyone back next week. Although we understand that for many parents and children the move to online learning has been incredibly challenging, we have been amazed by the quality of work produced by children and the enthusiasm and engagement they have shown. On behalf of all the staff, I would like to thank parents for all the support they have provided to continue children's learning at home over the last few months and say a huge well done to the children for the fantastic work they have produced.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Ashton