



BEDFORD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
ST JOSEPH'S & ST GREGORY'S PRIMARY

Chester Road
Bedford MK40 4HN
Tel: 01234 352062

Email: office@stjosephsandstgregorys.com

Website: www.stjosephsandstgregorys.com

Headteacher: MISS LISA SUMPTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

You will have heard recently about the government's intention for all children to return to school in September. I wanted to take this opportunity to express how delighted we will be to see you child in school. All staff will create an environment as near to normal as they can, whilst not compromising safety. Your child's safety and that of our staff is the most important thing, as it has been throughout the current crisis.

To enable the safe return of all children and staff we have updated our Infection Control Policy, which is attached to this email and on the school website for your information. The policy outlines how we intend to run school, offering high quality teaching and learning whilst keeping all members of our community as safe as we can. The following statements are taken directly from the policy and show the main ways we intend to minimise risk for all at school:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

The school year starts for all children in Year 1 – 6 on **Tuesday 8th September 2020**. Children new to Reception will have their start date confirmed in a letter next week. The school day will continue to run from **8:45am until 3:15pm**.

We are so lucky at St Joseph's and St Gregory's to be blessed with a large site, with lots of outside space, therefore we will not need to change our school hours. When you arrive with your child, there will be enough space to socially distance, while you wait for your child to join their class. For the first few days at the start of the term, signs will be visible, directing you and your child to the correct area for hand washing and then entry into the building. At the end of the school day, children will leave the building from the same place that they entered through, whilst parents wait outside.

As a school, we understand the need for extended care, in order for parents to return to work effectively. Therefore we will continue to offer breakfast and after school clubs. Both the Lower Primary and Upper Primary sites will have access to these clubs, with **Breakfast Club starting from 8am and After School Club finishing at 6pm on the Lower Primary and 5pm on the Upper Primary (Family circumstance will be taken into consideration). Places must be booked if you wish your child to attend these clubs.**

As a school, we cannot wait to have our community back together, and are really looking forward to seeing the children return in their full school uniform. Any changes (due to Government guidance) will be communicated by text.

To finish, I would like to wish you all a restful and safe summer holiday, and thank you again for the support you have shown throughout this time.

Lisa Sumpter

