Inspiring everyone to R.E.A.C.H through Faith, Hope, Love

September 2020

The government announced on 2nd July that their plan is that ALL pupils in ALL year groups return to full-time schooling from the beginning of the Autumn Term. This means that all children (with the exception of EYFS) are to return to school full time on **Thursday 4th September 2020.**

The prevalence of COVID-19 has decreased, NHS Test and Trace system is up and running and schools have clear risk assessments and safety measures in place to create a safe environment.

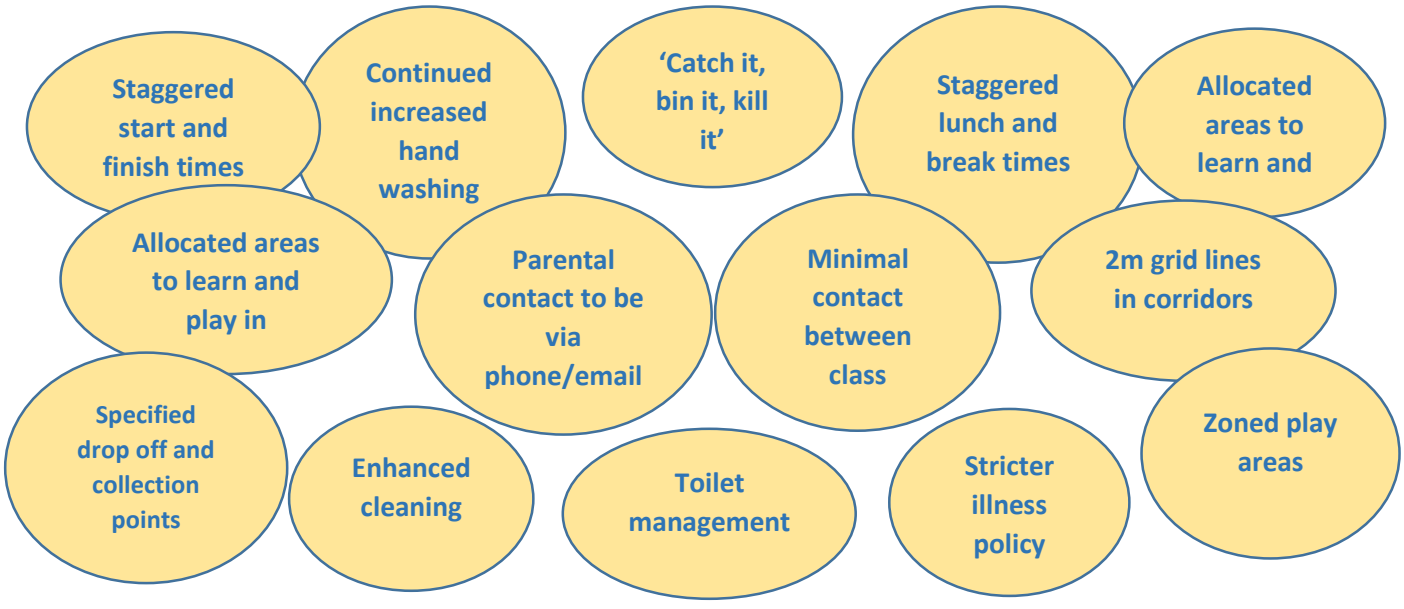
Why should all children return to school?

- It is good for children's mental wellbeing
- Time out of school is detrimental for children's academic development
- It is good for children to socialise with other children

The risk of children becoming severely ill from COVID-19 is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school. There is no evidence that children transmit the disease any more than adults. For many households, school closures have affected their ability to work. Therefore, with children in school this removes the barrier so that parents/carers can return to work.

Changes to school to keep the children and adults safe

Following lock-down, the government has asked us to do our best to open our school whilst maintaining the principles of social distancing so that we decrease the opportunity of spreading Covid-19, or any other germs, between us. We think it is important for you to know that social distancing is really not possible with younger groups of children. However, there are things that we can do as a school to give children and adults more space so that it is less likely for germs to spread.



Does my child have to attend school?



Yes-missing out on more time in the classroom risks children falling further behind. School attendance is **mandatory from the beginning of the Autumn term (4th September).** Therefore, the usual rules on school attendance will apply including:

- Parents' duty to ensure that their child attends school
- School's responsibility to record attendance and follow up absence
- School's responsibility to issue sanctions, including fixed term penalty notices in line with the local authorities' codes of conduct will apply.

My child will attend school

Yes

Your child will be registered when they get to class in line with school attendance policy

No

Reason for non-attendance

My child is ill or someone at home is ill

Phone **01453 860311** to let us know and tell us the symptoms. If it is symptoms of Covid-19, you **MUST** get your child tested and inform the school of the results.

YOUR CHILD MUST SELF ISOLATE FOR 7 DAYS. YOUR HOUSEHOLD MUST SELF ISOLATE FOR 14 DAYS FROM WHEN THE SYMPTOMATIC PERSON FIRST HAD SYMPTOMS

Positive

Follow the 'Stay at home guidance.'

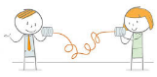
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-

Negative

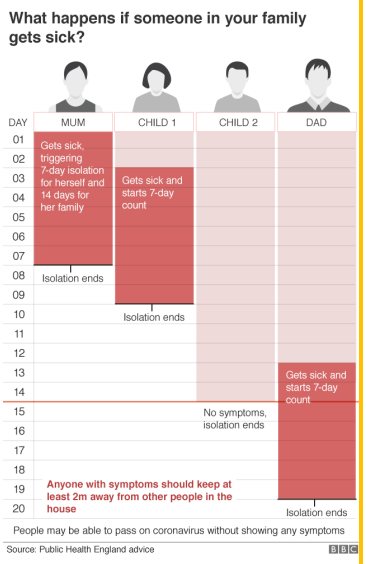
If you feel well and no longer have COVID-19 symptoms you can stop self- isolating. However, you could have flu or another virus so avoid contact with other people until you are better. Your household can stop self-isolating.

My child is clinically extremely vulnerable

Phone **01453 860311 and ask to speak to a member of the SLT in order to inform them about your child**



What happens if my child shows symptoms of illness at school?



If your child is feeling unwell we will take them to the isolation room and you will be called to collect them. We respectfully ask that **you collect them as soon as you receive a call from us to keep all members of the school community safe and well.** Staff will need to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when helping your child in this instance.

If your child shows symptoms of Covid-19 (temperature, cough etc.), we will need to send them home in the interests of infection control, even if they do not feel unwell. This means that even if you think they are actually struggling with another medical need such as hay fever or asthma they will be sent home – this is because, in this instance, it will not be suitable for staff members or other children to be exposed to a child who is constantly sneezing or coughing.

If anyone at school (child or adult) shows symptoms of COVID 19, they will need to be tested - **https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/**. If this test shows to be positive, all children and adults within that child's 'bubble' (class) will be advised and will need to self-isolate for 14 days. You MUST provide details of anyone that you have been in close contact with if your test is **POSITIVE** (Test and Trace).

What if my child is shielding or lives in a household where somebody is shielding or clinically extremely vulnerable?

From the 1st August the government will be advising that shielding will be paused. The government are advising you to adopt strict social distancing measures. This means that children can return to school. Children should practise frequent handwashing and social distancing.

Clinically extremely vulnerable groups

If your child has not been told by your GP or specialist that they are clinically extremely vulnerable or received a letter saying that they are clinically extremely vulnerable, then you should follow the guidance on staying alert and safe (social distancing).

If your child remains under the care of a specialist health professional you will need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school. In this case, please contact us to discuss this further.

What happens if my child is unable to attend school?

If your child is unable to attend school because they are complying with the clinical and/or public health advice, we will offer access to remote learning. Where children are unable to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.

My child/ren and or I are feeling anxious about returning to school

We know that returning to school for some children and parents/carers may add to your anxieties. Please talk to us directly about this and we can support you and your child/ren. Please remember that attendance at school is compulsory.

My child has Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities

Miss Browning (SENDCo) will be in touch with you directly to discuss your child's return and complete a risk assessment if your child has an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). Where necessary, children on the SEND register will have access to a catch-up/targeted interventions. Some children with SEND will have specific support to understand the changes for example, through social stories.

How will my child be grouped?

Each year group (no more than 30) will be classed as a 'bubble' and will remain, as much as possible, with the same adults so that the contact with those outside of the 'bubble' is limited. However, we recognise that children, especially the younger children, cannot stay socially distant from each other or staff. Maintaining 'bubbles' that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case, to identify those who may need to self-isolate.

Children from Y2 upwards will sit at desks that are forward facing so that face to face contact is reduced. In EYFS and Y1 children will learn in different zones, which will have a minimum of 4 children in each zone.

Measures elsewhere

Each 'bubble' will have an allocated learning area, an allocated playing area and an allocated eating area. Due to restricted movement in the classrooms, **the children will go outside to play whatever the weather** – please ensure that they have waterproofs and wellington boots in a clearly labelled bag that can be left in school on their peg.

Whole school assemblies and collective worship will not take place but daily forms of collective worship within each 'bubble' will.

Careful consideration will be given at the beginning and end of the school day, as well as to exit and entry points. Lunchtimes and playtimes will be staggered. Each bubble will have their own playtime areas and equipment to play with. This will not be shared and all equipment will be cleaned at the end of each day.

Children do not need to wear face masks to school. When they enter school they will wash their hands immediately and on a regular basis throughout the day. They will be encouraged to avoid touching their face. Classrooms will have sanitising stations inside and liquid soap inside sink areas.

All children are asked to provide their own pencil case containing a 30cm ruler, plain rubber and barrel pencil sharpener to avoid sharing of equipment. We will provide a pencil and other less used resources.



We ask that only essentials are sent to school with the children. For example, lunchbox, water bottle, cap/hat and coat.

Teachers and TAs will move around the room looking and discussing learning but where possible will not sit at tables with pupils, work face to face or at eye level.

All surfaces in the school are kept clear so that they can be cleaned down frequently every day.

For the opening of School in September, Caterlink will be providing packed lunches only for those that want them as well as those eligible for free school meals or universal infant free school meals. A cooked meal will not be offered.

There will be no extracurricular activities during the Autumn Term.

Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) and Peripatetic Teachers

All teachers are entitled to PPA each week. As usual, cover will be provided by members of staff on our team. We will continue to offer all music lessons by the peripatetic teachers. A strict timetable will be in place and class teachers will supervise children's attendance of lessons. Montagu Academy will continue to coach the children in PE on a Friday. The children will be taught using different equipment in the morning enabling items used to be fully cleaned before being used after lunch.

Drop off and Collection Times and Locations

As you will appreciate we need to get the children into school quickly and efficiently, therefore **please arrive at school at the time requested and exit swiftly**. We politely ask that ALL parents adhere to **social distancing measures** while dropping off and collecting children. If on the rare occasion you are late, you need to wait in the car and telephone the school office who will assist you. **We politely ask that you do not enter the school site.**

Year group	Drop off & collection times	Drop off & collection point	Where to Park
Reception (When in full time)	8.50 – 3.05pm	Staff carpark Gate	Pub car park
Year 1	8.40- 2.55pm	Staff carpark Gate	Pub car park
Year 2	8.40- 2.55pm	St Joseph's Church Yard Gate	Benton court
Year 3	8.50 am – 3.05pm	St Joseph's Church Yard Gate	Benton Court
Year 4	8.40 – 2.55pm	Main School gate	Front street towards the convent
Year 5	8.50 – 3.05pm	Main School gate	Front street towards the convent
Year 6	9 am – 3.15pm	Main School gate	Front street towards the convent/pub car park

All communication should be via telephone or email.

What should my child/children wear to school?

It is expected that children wear their school uniform (either winter or summer until October half term and then winter uniform until the start of the summer term 2021). Government guidelines state that uniform does not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do

they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal. Children will continue to wear PE kit on a Friday.

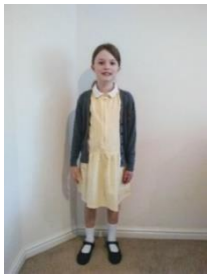
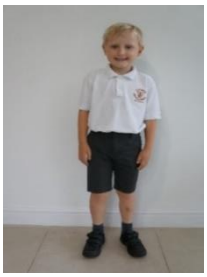
At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we are very proud of our school uniform and expect ALL children to wear it with pride. Equally and more importantly, it makes us feel united and brings the children together as one family. **You will be approached by a member of staff if the school policy on uniform is not adhered to**. Uniform is available from Bateman's Sports in Stroud.

Winter
School blazer (optional) grey v neck pullover or cardigan with school badge, white shirt, grey skirt or pinafore, trousers, grey or white socks, grey tights, gold tie, black shoes (no trainers).




Summer

White polo shirt with school badge, grey shorts, grey pullover. Golden yellow checked dress, grey cardigan with school badge, grey or white socks, black shoes (no trainers or sandals).

REACH FRIDAY
Navy shorts, House colour polo shirt (Eagles – red, Falcons – yellow, Hawks – blue, Kestrels – green), white sports socks, black plimsolls (KS1), black trainers (KS2). Grey school hooded sweatshirt, and/or dark tracksuit during the winter (sweatshirts and tracksuit bottoms are available with the school badge on.
Alternative sports: plain coloured tracksuit bottoms/hooded tops NO STRIPES OR BRANDING PLEASE.)





What will children learn?

All children will receive high quality education that promotes their development and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

All children will be taught a wide range of subjects, a broad and balanced curriculum.

Where necessary, high quality remote learning, in-line as closely as possible with in-school provision will be provided. The curriculum will be built around supporting the mental health and well-being of the children. Any gaps in children's learning as a result of COVID-19, will be addressed. However, we know the importance of **reading** and therefore, this will be at the **centre and front** of learning from September for all children.

It is the government's intention that all statutory assessments will take place in Summer Term 2021 to include:

- Phonics screening check
- Key stage1 (Year 2) teacher assessments
- Year 4 multiplication timetable check
- Key stage 2 tests (SATs)

Behaviour Expectations

The **current** school expectations still stand. These can be found in the Managing Behaviour policy available on the school's website under the 'Key Information – Policies' tab.

What happens if there is a spike in infection rates in the local area?

If a local area sees a spike in infection rates resulting in localised community spread, appropriate authorities will decide which measures to implement to help contain the spread. Therefore, schools are expected to provide remote learning as part of a contingency plan.

What can I do as a parent/carer?

We need your support to ensure that we continue to provide a good quality of education, with the safety and wellbeing of the children, staff and wider school community at the forefront. Therefore, it is imperative that you:

- Drop off and collect your child/ren on time and at the correct gate
- Adhere to social distancing when dropping off and collecting your child/ren
- If using the church yard, please ensure that your child walks sensibly through staying on the path.
- Ensure that your child/ren wear the correct school uniform including PE kit on the allocated days
- Communicate with school via email (assistantadmin@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk, slt@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk) or telephone. Please do not go to the school office entrance, as you will not be able to enter the building.

As a school community, we want to work together with you, in order to keep our children at school learning within a safe learning environment. Please support us with this by following the guidelines. The above is **subject to change**, based on any updates that we receive from the Department for Education (DFE). We will of course keep you updated with any changes that need to be implemented.

If you have any questions or queries, then please do contact the school.

Thank you for your support.